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Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter Prologue

As the curtain of night fell, a girl ran through the forest with little concern for her footing. The trees were dyed a dark shade, as solid blackness shrouded the landscape.

However, there were sure signs that the men pursuing her were shortening the distance separating them.

Numerous twigs and leaves were tangled up in the shoulder-lengthed thin golden hair that was tinged with a hint of emerald. Looking into her moist bluish-green eyes, one could see the fear of the twelve year old girl. Her cheeks were stained with the yet-to-dry trails of tears.

Though the breathing of the running girl was rough, and the amount of wounds on her hands and feet from the trees and thickets only increased as she tried to avoid getting tangled in the forest, she still ran.

Thanks to the long pointed ears which was a characteristic of the forest people, the sounds of the pursuing group of men could be heard. However, the men could not be seen when she looked around. The girl was a member of the dark elf tribe, and carries her people’s night vision ability; however, she did not know this forest’s daytime layout, so it was impossible to tell where she was going.

The senses of the elf people were good, but the girl was still very young and lacked proper warrior training, so she didn’t know how to handle this situation calmly.

The girl was desperate to escape, but her pursuers were steadily closing their encirclement net.

[Hyun]

A whistling sound was heard, and suddenly there was an arrow lodged in the girl’s right leg. The girl, losing her footing, fell on the spot.

She looked at her right leg. A sharp pain rose up the moment she saw it.

“AAAAAH!!”

The girl held her leg in excruciating pain, large tears dropping on the ground as she writhed about.

The bushes swayed, revealing several human figures.

All the men were equipped with leather armor and thick long-sleeved tunics, wielding various weapons. Some carried a sword with daggers at their waist, while others carried bows.

The men all had vulgar smiles on their faces, but they approached the girl without any carelessness, indicating some level of skill.

“Quickly attach the collar.”

A man with his hands on the weapon at his waist instructed the other men. One of the men approached the girl from behind with a metal black collar and a gag.

“After this safeguard. Hurry, before the elves find us. Will the restraints hold?”

Another man next to the leader nodded and then answered,

“Alright, the four that were captured will be taken to Diento.”

When the commander gave the signal to withdraw, the group disappeared from the dark forest.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 1

By the time I noticed it, I realized I had no idea how I got here.

There was a sloping area covered in green grass. The sun was still high in the sky, so it might still be early afternoon. The wind blew through the grass, giving it the appearance of green water; a wave of grass flowed in my direction as I sat atop a large rock. The smell of moist soil and the grass mixed with the wind, and the fragrance drifted into my nostrils. The wind carried to the forest behind me, rustling the leaves on the trees.

I stand up unintentionally from the rock which I had sat on, and fix my eyes on the overwhelming expanse of the horizon. A view such as this couldn't easily be seen in little old Japan, could it?

Finally, I notice my own appearance.

Decorated with the finest of details, a silver full body armor toned with white and blue, akin to those from some myth or legend, adorned my body.

A jet-black mantle blows in the wind; inside the mantle, small glimmers of light can be seen, invoking thoughts of a starry night.

On my back I carry a large round shield with an elaborate emblem in the center, as well as what can only be described as a divine blade which gave off an awe-inspiring aura.

This gear is far apart from my normal appearance, but I know it well. Even today, before I fell asleep in front of my computer after playing online games, this gear was equipped to my player character.

"What the hell?!"

I yell at the top of my lungs. Even though I know there is no one here to answer, I couldn't help but cry out.

I slowly move the sword sheath to my waist and whip out the blade. A thin, blue, double-edged blade surrounded by light is drawn. The beautiful blade shines like the light of day. The length of the sword's blade exceeds well over a meter, giving the weapon a seemingly heavy look. I take a stance with the blade parallel to my eyes, and swing it down.

“What the hell?!”

I scream again.

It’s light! The weight is such that I can hardly believe it’s made of metal. I lightly swing the unrealistic sword to confirm the weight. Then I swing the sword with one hand. Even though I’m equipped with body armor, I feel light. It’s as if I’m not wearing armor at all.

“【Flying Dragon Slash】!!”

While waving the sword around, I call out the name of a skill from the game. A beam of light emits from the sword, and is sent flying into the forest.

Suddenly, a handful of trees slowly fall within the forest. The leaves of other trees rustle, and the of the birds of neighboring trees all fly into the sky. A slightly dull sound echoes through the area as the trees hit the ground.

“Really, what the hell…”

Finally, I have the feeling that my thoughts have calmed down. But I still did not understand the situation.

The weapons and equipment that I have equipped were of mythical grade, the same as that of my character in the game I was playing.

It was truly a rarity to be fully equipped with mythical grade gear. There are a total of six grades of equipment: low, intermediate, high, masterpiece, legendary, and mythical.

The silver body armor I have on is the Heavenly Knight armor,『Belen’s Saint Armor』series. The armor is comprised of five pieces: the headgear, torso, waist, arms, and legs. Not only does it enhance defense and periodically restore a fixed amount of health, it also increases attack power, as well as increasing curse resistance. In addition, fire and light attribute damage are reduced by half. A set of truly broken gear.

And the mantle fluttering in the wind behind me is the mythical grade『Overcoat of the Night Sky』. It has the effect of reducing darkness attribute damage, also restoring a set amount of mana over time.

The shield that I carry on my back was the『Heavenly Shield of Titus』. In addition to high defense and knockdown invalidation, it raised all abnormal status effect resistance values.

Complaints about the broken Heavenly Knight series led to the administration patching it, but the effects of the armor remained ― it was just that players could no longer use other accessories with the equipment. Consequently, the already limited number of users of the

Heavenly Knight series further decreased.

Finally, in my hands I am wielding the『Holy Thunder Sword』.With its high attack power and agility boost, it's a two-handed sword I am truly proud of. Like every other mythical class weapon within the game, it has its own special attack, with the penalty being that the player suffers a power reduction after its useage.

I return the sword to the sheath at my waist, then, with my right hand, I cast【Flame】. And just like in the game, a torrent of flames shoot out as if my hand is a flamethrower.

No… It's different from the game.

If I'm not mistaken, the main occupation of my character was Heavenly Knight, and the subclass should have been Pope.【Flame】is a Magician's skill and【Flying Dragon Slash】is certainly a Warrior's skill. It's not a skill my current character's occupation should have been allowed to use in the game.

Why can a Knight use a Magician's skill? Then, I had a thought: considering everything, what if this isn't the game or a dream, but reality?

If it's reality, then the skills that I could not use because of my class change should be fully available. For example, a Judo expert who started a boxing career is still capable of using Judo techniques.

With me often reaching the highest level of my occupations, am I able to use all the high-level skills that I had?

The conditions for gaining the Heavenly Knight class are that a character had to possess maximum level in the Magician, Priest, and Warrior occupations. In order to achieve that, I had to gain the occupations of Magic Knight, Advanced Wizard, and Pope. I did not learn all of the skills from each occupation, but I did learn quite a few of them.

If anything, if I am able to use all of the skills that I learned, I should be able handle anything that comes my way.

I wonder if I would have been able to survive if my main occupation had been fixed to Heavenly Knight. Frankly speaking, some of the highest-level occupations can't really be used. First, there are only four technique skills available. And all of them are flashy skills that cause widespread destruction. Clearly it was a class only meant to fulfill the romance of the developers.

As it is, I am able to use the【Heavenly Knight Sword Techniques】that allows a two-handed sword be wielded with only one hand, but if I were to use both hands, wouldn't it increase my attack power?

I've been in this area for a while now, but nothing will get done if I stay here. If this is

indeed real, I need to find some people or a town and think of a future plan.

I try to invoke the Magician's support skill,【Transfer Gate】. Pale light is emitted as a three meter wide magic circle appears…

In the game, all I had to do is select the name of a town and I would be transferred there. However there is no selection screen now. For a while, I think about what I should do. Incidentally, my vision darkens. And then I notice that the landscape spread out before my eyes has changed.

I traveled about three meters from where I was a second ago. Apparently, this magic can't be used properly without a clear image of where I wanted to go.

However, I don't know any locations in this world, It seems that I didn't move because of this fact.

I give up…

Wait, there should be one more skill available for movement. The support skill, 【Dimensional step】.

The skill lets me move to any location after I select it. In the early stages of the game, it was a skill that allows you escape the range of enemy attacks ― a skill used when you were surrounded by enemies. But after the middle stage of the game, when the monsters and the boss' attack range took up the whole screen, it was regarded as a useless skill. Am I able to use it? With no screen to click, I could just be wasting mana.

I set my eyes on the intended location and activate【Dimensional step】. The scenery changes in an instant. When I look back, I observe that the place I had just been is a great distance away. It's probably about five hundred meters. In the game, no matter what you did, the skill could only take you to the edge of the screen. In reality, it appears that I can move to any location within my line-of-sight. Though I can't blow off heads with beams like a certain Esper girl, it's still a helpful power. With a cool-down time of one second, it can be seen as a very convenient movement method.

So I continually use【Dimensional step】to navigate the landscape.

As the day fades away, it seems that I'm moving in the southwest direction. After leaving the sloping area a little while ago, I see a large river ahead.

I transfer to the riverbank and look around. This river is about two hundred meters across. It seems to hold quite a lot of water. When I look at the river, the water seems to be transparent, and I see many fish swimming along with the current.

Why don't I take a break and have a drink of water?

I remove my helmet. That reminds me, not only did I not feel heavy wearing the armor, but I also didn't feel hot. Such a thought was in my head as I brought my face closer to the water.

At that moment, my mind goes blank──

"─Damn…"

My mutter is lost inside the noise of the water.

My vision focuses on the refection in the water. There are no eyes. In fact, there doesn't appear to be a nose or even any flesh. In the dark eye sockets, the pale light of the undead can be seen. I stare back at the reflection without any emotion.

The water was reflecting the figure of an armored skeleton──

I completely forgot it. The kind of avatar I played the game with.

Your usual game avatar would be a humanoid ─ one that can be customized to suit a person's own preference. The degree of customization was extensive: you could make a long-eared Elf, or even a pig-nosed Orc.

There were also special avatars that charged a fee in order to be obtained; one of the special avatars was『Skeletal Body』.

Despite the fee, "it won't matter if I'm completely covered in armor," is what I told my friends…

I actually wanted a golden skeleton avatar. With that, I would be known as the crazed hero of justice. When I searched about it later, the head of the guy was a skeleton, and from the neck down it was gold just like the costume of a professional wrestler. Nevertheless, I thought that it would be a completely golden skeleton for the entire time before that…

To escape reality, I had thought of the past.

This is very bad.

I can not remove my helmet in public with this appearance. In fact, if I do, I might become a target for monster subjugation.

My current future plans were just revoked.

I will live quietly and not stand out as best as I possibly can.

However, my body armor is quite luxurious, and it could attract attention alone… Yet, I can't remove this equipment.

In this world I have nothing to my name except for this armor. I lack all my in-game items, and I have no money.

I have to carefully scrape together some money for the time being.

I shove my head into the water and drink. Since I’m a skeleton, did I try to drink out of habit? Where would the water that I drink go? In the first place, can I even taste the water?

I won’t worry about the small things anymore. The inside of my head was beginning to overheat. Even though I have no brain to speak of.

A skeleton laughs in a high-pitched voice in my head… Oops, my mind tried to escape reality again.

First, let’s reconsider the idea of looking for a city. Perhaps I will find some people living at the end of the river.

With such thoughts, I put my helmet back on and resume using【Dimensional step】. Since leaving the river, signs of a road has started to develop, so a village shouldn’t be that far.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 2

「A Surprise Attack Isn't Cowardly」 Part 1

We continued down a neglected highway with considerable speed. As the horse-backed guards escorting the carriage travelled alongside it, the sound of the horseshoes echoed. The carriage jolts from time to time as its wheels got caught on the roadside stones.

I quietly watched the rear of the carriage, gazing into the rear viewing window. On the right of the road was the riverbed, with the water's surface being lit by the fading sun, coloring the surroundings with the glow of dusk. A gently inclined hill was to the left, and a herd of animals could be seen moving along it. Straight ahead, small shrubs start to line the highway, and have begun to cast their shadows across the land.

Only sounds of the carriage wheels and the horses' hooves echoed through the area, with no abnormality found anywhere. However, the escorts seemed to have fallen into a heavy silence. It was due to the unexpected situation that the group encountered a while ago.

Lauren Ojou-sama, as the representative of the Rubierute household, had attended the ball held by the Diento household. As we made the return trip, a group of bandits ambushed our party. With more than twenty thieves appearing, nine of the guards broke formation to delay them as long as possible and prevent further pursuit.

Only five soldiers and a single knight remained with the carriage. And there were no signs of any of the previous guards catching up from behind.

Inside the carriage, watching the passing landscape through the window, Lauren Ojou-sama had an anxious expression. Her long chestnut color hair loosely sways, and appeared to have lost all of it usual luster due to the tension and anxiety. She had a small face and narrow eyelashes, with her light-brown eyes giving off a sort of transient feeling.

The sixteen year old girl also wore a luxurious light-blue dress, with the glow of the sunset which entered through the carriage's window giving it a crimson tinge.

Inside the carriage, the only other person was me, her maidservant. While usually it was a place for idle chitchat, now neither of us spoke a word.

After a while the speed of the carriage suddenly slowed, then the neighing of a horse was heard. The coachman's window opened, and he offered an apology.

“Sorry, Ojou-sama. The horses aren’t able to last any longer, so you will have to walk from now on.”

From the time when the bandits ambushed until now, the horses have been constantly pulling the carriage. It appears that they have finally reached their limits. As expected, it was a harsh task even for four horses. Well, if anything, it was the horse of the knight that suffered the most.

When I peered outside the window, I saw the middle-aged man tying up his horse next to the carriage. He was one of the knights under the service of the Rubierute household, Maudlin-sama. The remaining escorts gathered around him.

Maudlin-sama finished wiping the sweat off his horse’s neck with a towel. His hair was short and tidy, and he sported a well-groomed mustache. Even though he was clad in light body armor, his stature revealed the toned muscle underneath.

“Maudlin-sama, did the bandits give up?”

From the window of the carriage, I asked while looking back at him.

“I was worried because the number of people sent against the bandits were so few, but since no one has come to pursue, perhaps it’s already safe. Convey this, if you please, to Ojou-sama.”

In response, Maudlin-sama showed me a reassuring toothy grin.

“Is that so? I can finally rest easy after hearing that.”

I looked at the highway in front of the carriage.

The bushes that were concentrated along the highway further back were now dispersed along the road. The hillside that was visible from the highway was now within walking distance. As I looked at it, I couldn’t help but feel an oppressive aura on the back of my neck. The prickling sensation made me furrow my brows.

After looking at me, Maudlin-sama also attentively watched the surrounding area. Just as we took notice of something, the sound of the air distorted as multiple arrows flew towards us.

“Goha─”

With a dull sound as they penetrated flesh, two arrows struck the coachman. At that moment, the wheels of the carriage struck a stone on the road, causing the body to bounce and be thrown off. The corpse of the coachman then blocked the wheels, preventing it from moving.

Furthermore, numerous arrows flew from the bushes, piercing two of the escorts.

“Shit! There was another ambush?! How could this be happening!!”

Suddening appearing from the top of the ridges next to the highway, with the ringing of hoofbeats, six bandits charged down towards the caravan. The arrows pinning down the escorts allowed the horse-backed bandits to approach uncontested. Two more guards were pierced by arrows, and another fell to the bandits in an instant. Just as Maudlin knight-sama knocked off one of the approaching bandits with his sword, two people emerged from the bushes to regain control of the rider-less horse.

“Rita-dono! The carriage!!”

At the voice of Maudlin-sama, I felt my head finally clear up. I scrambled off the carriage and kicked the body of the coachman out of the wheels’ path. With the rear wheels now unblocked, the carriage could move again.

I tried to board the bloodstained coachman’s seat, only to have my maid uniform grabbed from behind, forcing me onto the ground. My back struck the ground heavily, and all the air in my lungs were forced out. From the corner of my eyes, I saw one of the guards collapsing onto the ground.

The bandit who had pulled me down and was now dragging me entered my view. He had a vulgar smile on his face.

“GUAAAA!!!!”

At that time, a masculine voice full of pain sounded out. When I looked at the direction of the voice, an unbelievable scene unfolded before my eyes.

One of the guards behind Maudlin-sama had his sword slid in between one of the gaps of Maudlin-sama’s armor. Maudlin-sama’s face twisted intensely.

“Casuda!? So it was your guidance!!”

After being stabbed in the back, Maudlin-sama tried to twist his body to slash the former guard Casuda. However, his opponent who was similarly on a horse, with a faint smile, took the opportunity to push him onto the ground.

Suddenly, a bandit with a slightly better physique than the rest jumped off his horse and stabbed Maudlin-sama in the neck with his sword. Blood sprayed out, and the ground around Maudlin-sama was dyed red.

“Hey, kindly remove the Ojou-sama from inside the carriage.”

The better-built bandit gave instruction to the others while revealing his yellow teeth. He

had squarish features that are complemented by the tied-up long hair behind his back, with a messy beard that covered his jawline and made it impossible to see his neck. He carried a single-edged sword with an arm that was covered in old scars. This man seemed to be the leader of these bandits.

Following his order, the other bandits dismounted from their horses and ran up to the carriage. The door of the carriage was flung open, and Lauren Ojou-sama was pulled outside.

“Noo! Release me at once!!”

Although Ojou-sama desperately struggled, twisting her body, her arms were bound by two of the men. I was grabbed in a similar fashion and dragged along.

“Hey! Take care when removing her clothes! We can sell them for a good price!” The bandit leader yelled at the two who held Ojou-sama.

“Boss, because I killed that guy, can I have a taste..?” One of the bandits who was taking off the clothes asked the leader.

“Moron!! I’m the first to stick it in!! You can have a turn when I’m done!!”

“J-just wait a minute! I was the informer so I should go first!!”

Casuda the former escort loudly protested to the boss of the bandits. The boss glared at back at him with dangerous eyes, and then casually shoved his sword through Casuda’s throat.

“Gayhu!?”

A weak cry was uttered by the traitor as a sword protruded from the back of his head. Casuda fell like a puppet with its strings cut, while the other bandits watched with nasty smiles on their faces.

“From the very beginning, I don’t share!”

As the boss said this, he kicked the head of the now dead man. With a dull sound the skull broke off, as the neck twisted towards the direction of the rising sun.

“Hii!”

Ojou-sama uttered a short scream upon seeing this. A yellow stain spread on her underwear, and a small puddle appeared beneath her.

“Augh, the girl pissed herself!”

At the bandit holding Ojou-sama crying out, the surrounding men began to laugh vulgarly.

“We can’t sell dirty underwear, toss ’em.”

At the boss’ words, the stained underwear was removed quickly. Ojou-sama’s wet chestnut bush was exposed to the obscene eyes of the men.

“Nooo!!! Let me go!!”

Desperate wanting to get away from the stares of the men, she flailed her feet in an attempt to get away. However, the boss made one of the bandits hold her feet down, while he removed his pants and exposed his dirty thing.

“Stop! Do you know what will happen if you do such a thing!!” I voiced my condemnation to the men.

“Before worrying about others, you should first worry about for yourself!”

As one of the men who held me said this, he carelessly teared open my simple maid attire. My bra was teared as well, and one of my breasts was exposed. I covered up it quickly, but was then roughly thrown onto the ground.

“I will make you feel good along with that Ojou-sama over there, hahaha!”

When the man laughed, a wave of rancid air hit my face. He then began to pull his pants down. Both of my arms were held down by one of the men, while one of my legs was caught by another one. As it was hanging above me, the boss was preparing to hit the very depths of Ojou-sama’s private place in one go.

At the moment ― a large shadow appeared behind the bandits.

It was an event that occurred in an instant. A towering knight stood behind the bandit boss on top of Ojou-sama.

With an armor that shined with a brilliant silver with white and blue undertones and decorated with the finest details, he appeared as if he were a holy knight out of some fairy tale. The pitch-black mantle that fluttered behind him seemed to have been made from the starry night sky itself. The helmet’s visor concealed his face, and, as a result, his expressions and emotions were all hidden.

The sword raised in his right hand seems to extend without end, and pulsed with an overwhelming presence as it flickered with a mysterious indigo light.

The knight’s sword flashed in the direction of the boss and the bandits who held Ojou-sama’s feet down. The blade moved as if it could cut the air, and left a trail of light in its wake. The knight took a large sidestep, and with a reverse slash, the sword released another wave of light. The sword’s arc seemed to cover the sky itself as a line of light

glimmered between the two men holding Ojou-sama’s wrists.

──All of which happened within a split second.

In the next moment, the torso of the boss slid off. The bandits who were holding the feet had nothing from the neck up, their heads rolling on the ground faced the direction of sunrise. The bandits in charge of the wrists had their heads split in half, the spraying blood magnificently covered a nearby thicket, dyeing the scenery already colored by the sunset even more red.

The boss’s upper body landed near Ojou-sama, and in a half-frenzy she kicked it away. The remaining lower body released a white cloudy fluid from a certain thing that stood erect in the pool of blood.

For the man who had his dirty thing out while straddling my abdomen and the man who held me down, their brain finally realized that something abnormal was happening.

“Uwaaaah!!! M-monsteeer!!!”

The two men scrambled to get away, but the man who had his pants down tripped, and fell down close to me. Before I noticed, the tip of the knight’s sword had already swung down, and the man collapsed on the ground like a frog that had been stepped on.

The silver knight pulled his sword from the skewered man, and turned towards the man still running. Slowly, with a single step, he swung his sword, once again sending out a white flash. By all accounts, he merely cut the air in front of him, while the man had run quite a distance. And yet, the upper and lower body of the fleeing man separated, collapsing onto the ground.

Until the bandits became lumps of flesh the knight did not speak; I simply sat there and blinked three times. With a light swing, the silver knight sheathed his sword. He then looked towards us, and a slightly muffled voice could be heard from the depths of the helmet that completely hid his expression.

“Are you alright?”

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 3

Chapter 3

Translator/Editor: Silver

「A Surprise Attack Isn't Cowardly」Part 2

The path along the riverbed did not feel like an actual road to me.

The earth was simply flattened on this strip of land, the only indication of traffic being the carriage wheel's tracks. I was following the river downstream using 【Dimensional step】.

When I spotted a stopped carriage ahead of me.

I could finally encounter the inhabitants of this world, but something about the atmosphere was off.

To investigate, I transported to a nearby location, and observed the carriage. One large man appeared to be thrusting his sword toward a bodyguard. Lying on the ground, were the bodies of five other guards. The person parallel to the bandit fell to the ground, only the six bandits and two women were left alive. It was obvious in which direction, things were developing.

If I wanted to save the two women, I'd have to take care of the six bandits that could kill without hesitation. However, going out and simply yelling "Stop it, you guys" wasn't going to cut it.

If this were the game, then my current powerful equipment would allow me to be alright if I challenged them. However in reality, the outcome could bend to the will of chance.

There is only one strategy I can obtain certain victory with, I need to launch a surprise attack. It will all come down to how many I can remove within the initial action. However, the odds will be highly in my favor with this plan. After all I can always use 【Dimensional step】if the attack fails. First, I should take down the strongest looking one.

In my direct sight, the man that had been targeted pulled his pants down exposing his dirty ass.

My sword whipped out from its sheath, the mythical grade weapon 【Holy Thunder sword】was ready to released a little of the power capable of cutting down trees with one stroke. All right, I'm all set.

At once, I was behind the bandits with the use of transfer magic.

──When asking the result, the surprise attack was a great success. Rather, it was overwhelming victory.

Before they could even react, four people were rendered incapable of action. And the two that tried to run were quickly dealt with.

In the first place, I had no intention of letting a single bandit escape. It was like my state of being had entered a battle mode, when I saw the people trying to run my body moved instantly. Showing your back to a predator is something you should never do, when trying to running away from them. That is surely why I used 【Flying Dragon slash】 to deliver the fatal blow……

Although it was to save the women, I felt nothing at the thought that I had killed. I wonder if this is a mental effect?

I begin to look around, as I'm hit with a immeasurable feeling that something important is missing.

──Well, even if I think about it now, it is unlikely that I would find the answer……

Moreover, since the threat of the bandits has been dealt with, I could probably get these women to lead me to the nearest town.

As for two women, I was having a little trouble of finding where I should be looking, I try to relieve their tension by speaking.

"Are you alright?"

I call out to the two women, speaking in a normal tone, as if we were normal traveler.

The tone was suitable to use whenever I play the game.

It was the basic manner of playing, although I usually had to type on a keyboard before I could speak. Even if we weren't role-playing, most people would act as such, at least…… I think they would.

By the way, my character setting here were as a warrior, and I have the qualifications of a holy knight. A curse has changed me into a skeleton, so I wander looking for a way to break it. I'm a nice warrior in my early 40s…… those were the setting I prepared of asked.

One of the two women was still a girl, and had chestnut colored hair. She sat there stunned, cover in the blood of the bandits. Indeed, it was kinda sad……

The other women was 20-something and wore the remains of a maid outfit. She wore her red curly hair in a short style, and was looking at me with strong brown eyes. Her clothes were heavily damaged around her chest as she was trying to cover her breast with her arms. Not much of the victim's blood seems to have hit her.

"You should wash your bodies some in the river. I will take care of clean up while you do so.

"Y-Yes, Thank you very much. I will move ojou-sama over there."

At my words the redhead maid, ran to the carriage and pulled out a piece of luggage, she then wrapped the girl, referred to as ojou-sama, in a cloth and took her to the riverbed.

Then, I look around again.

There were 6 bandit bodies, and 7 bodyguard bodies in total. A terrible scene. It was like looking at a dreadful crash scene from a foreign TV drama. There were also 12 horse, not counting the ones attached to the carriage. Based on the saddles and other gear on the horses, 6 of them seemed to have belonged to the bandits.

A horse in such a time should be quite expensive. It would be equivalent to a modern car. Selling the six that belonged to the bandits should cover my traveling expenses. Can I also receive money from selling the weapons of the dead as well? The weapons should also be quite valuable, as they are basically lumps a metal.

I decide to discard the leather armor that won't seem to sell for much, in addition most of them are covered in blood.

I search the body of one of the bandits for the time being. Something like a leather pouch is tied to his waist. I remove the drawstring to verify the contents, 4 sheets of silver about the size of a 100-yen coin, and 15 sheets of various colors about the size of a 10-yen coin. A similar crest is drawn on all of them.

This seems to be the money used here. Silver and copper coins? Comparing it to the coins you see in Japan, they left me speechless. So this is the so called taste of wealth.

After a while, I'm sure that I've taken most of the valuables of the bandits.

The bottom half of the boss guy that was floating in soup, had 6 gold sheets in it about the size of a 1-yen coin. They were probably gold coins, although small they were comparatively heavy.

From all the bandits I got, 6 gold, 31 silver, and 67 copper. Perhaps this is a small amount, but I can't tell without knowing the price of anything.

There were 6 swords, 1 mace-like weapon, and 3 daggers.

The weapons were gathered up in a sack I found on one of the bandits' horses.

The corpses of the bandits were piled on the side of the road. Have I grow use to this kind of scene from those foreign dramas? I ponder as I notice my indifference to my actions.

I cast 【Flame】 on the pile of corpses. From my flame-thrower like hand, a jet of fire engulfs the pile of bandit corpses.

When they are reduced to ashes, they can be useful to the plants as fertilizer.

Suddenly I see, a copper had fallen near the flames.

I pick it up and throw it into fire, I don't know if the ferries of the Styx river are here or not, but at least one of them should be able to cross the river now.

As I watched as the fire and smoke were carried upward, the two ladies returned.

The brown-haired ojou-sama immediately went inside to carriage, however her complexion seems to have improved. The maid pulled out a leather bag tied to the rear of the carriage and took some spare cloths from it,

"With the bodies of the bandits cremated, do you want to do the escorts next?"

I ask her about the treatment of other corpses. She stopped for a bit, and thought about it.

"The bodies will be claimed later on by other soldiers. Only the weapons and horses will be brought back, thank you for preparing them." She replied, bowing politely.

"Understood."

I return a short reply, and began to move the bodies.

The maid boards the carriage with her change of clothes, and pulled the curtains.

Finding another sack, I throw the weapons of guards in it, and placed it on the rear of the carriage.

I then hitch the guards' horses to the carriage, with some rope I found in the bandits' belongings.

As for the bandits' horse, five of them are tied to the strongest looking one. Now it should be difficult for them to run, and I can bring the horses into the city by pulling the rope.

The horse I rode looked slightly annoyed by the weight of the body armor…

After awhile the maid appeared wearing her new clothes.

"This time you rescued us from a dangerous situation, we are truly grateful."

The maid gently crosses her arms, and bowed deeply.

"I was resting nearby by chance. Accompany me to the next town and we will be even."

I feel a little guilty brow betting her like that, but the journey to town has now interwoven our destinations.

"Thank you very much!"

The maid, without noticing my ploy, had a joyous expression, as she thanked me again and boarded the driver's seat of the carriage.

When the carriage begins to move quietly, I had my own horse move at the side of it. The other horses were pulled by the rope, and followed shortly behind.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 4

Chapter 4

Translator/Editor: Silver

「The First Town Rubierute」 Part 1

“I know this is a late introduction, but my name is Rita Farren. I am the maid of Lauren Roberts, daughter of the Rubierute noble household.”

While driving the carriage, Rita nods her head a little before speaking to me. Her brown eyes become fixed onto me. Apparently, she was waiting on some kind of self-introduction.

“Hmm, I am a traveling wanderer. You can call me Arc.”

I introduced myself roughly and returned to watching the road. Of course the name was that of my game character. In this body, I feel that using the identify of my character is the most suitable course of action.

But still, to think that the girl in the carriage was actually a noble. Although I had planed to not stand out too much, it appears that the plan is on the verge of collapsing. I have to make adjustments quickly, lest I get caught up in more troublesome things.

“Arc-sama, is your destination perhaps Rhoden?”

Rhoden? Is Rhoden a region? Or is it a country? I have no idea what it is.

It was a name that was never brought up in the game.

“No, as a traveler I merely wander around. So something like a destination…… would prevent me from going very far.”

While saying a suitable response, I stare at the dusk stained hills, in hopes of invoking a relaxed atmosphere.

“Is that so? We are heading towards the town of Rubierute, which Lauren ojou-sama’s father rules. Buckle-sama well be pleased with the subjugation of the bandits, so would you kindly stay with us until we reach the mansion.

Your deception of a worried father was brilliant, you even managed to pull out a warm and inviting smile.

However, I will absolutely refuse that invitation. It would be nothing but a hassle to meet with a feudal lord.

In the first place, my helmet can’t come off. I can’t greet an aristocrat while wearing this helmet. Even in modern times, you couldn’t get away with meeting a governor wearing a full face mask. In fact, in my world you couldn’t even talk with convenience store clerk with a mask on.

I have to use all of my energy to avoid this meeting.

“I appreciate the offer, but gratification is not what I was after. Your feelings are more then enough.”

“Receiving nothing, for saving both ojou-sama and myself…… Buckle-sama would be displeased with that……”

She said so persistently. I was at a loss. Her expression said she would not relent unless I accepted a gift of some kind. I need to come up with something I desired. But was there anything good I could ask for……

“Very well, as a traveler, I would be very thankful for something to make my passing easier.”

“Traveling……, ah, you can take this if you like. Only nobles can use the silver passports, so I only have a copper one. Showing this within the territory, should smoothen out any problems you have while traveling.”

From a breast pocket she pulled out a sheet of copper a little smaller then a business card. She then stretched out her arm to hand it to me, who was on horse back.

Receiving it, I noticed a family crest in the middle that had some type of characters inscribed around it.

“Thank you very much.”

I thanked her for it, before putting it away with the other goods piled in my pouch. While doing so she spook up.

“Arc-sama, I can see Rubierute.”

When I look in the direction of her voice, the appearance of a city was seen in the distance.

Water from the river flows around the city’s borders, by being channeled through a large moat.

Was the width of the moat around 3 meters?

A Wheat field stretches beyond one section of the moat, and a small wave of wheat occurs when the wind blows. The field was also protected by a small moat of its own.

The city walls seem to be made from reliable stone, with a height of maybe 5 meters? If you compared them to a castle’s walls it might look unreliable, but for a city the walls were quite sturdy.

I wondered if it was normal to find a town this big in such a medieval era?

The city gate seems to be 5 meters in width, and had watchtowers built in to both sides. There are a few guards at the base of the towers, standing guard and looking around. In front of the gate stood a stone bridge, but it was not the same as the drawbridges I saw often in the game.

Kl〜ing, Kl〜ing.

From the center of the town an evening bell rings, echoing trough the area until it reaches here.

“Arc-sama, that was the gate closing bell. We’ll have to hurry a little.”

Though the gate closing bell sounded, the gate would not close immediately. Before the gate closed we had to get the carriage close to the gate. Though since it is the carriage of the feudal lord, they could open the gate again, even if it is difficult work for the guards.

We seem to be at the city’s east gate. I then noticed that all the guards were standing around carrying spears.

One of the guards noticed the face Rita, and started running in our direction.

“Rita-dono! Who is this?! What happened to the escort troops and Sir Maudlin!?”

One by one the guard fired off questions. The guard that ran up may be the captain because he was the only one that wore a helmet.

“On the highway we encountered a bandit ambush, an hour ago. Sadly, Maudlin-sama and the other escorts fell to the hand of the bandits. Arc-sama appeared and managed to kill the remaining bandits.

“What!?”

The guard captain looked between Rita and myself with an astonished expression. Upon hearing the story, the other guards all became noisy.

“We preserved Maudlin-sama’s and five other escort’s bodies, I ask that you go to retrieve them. I will take ojou-sama to the mansion, and report back to Buckle-sama.”

“Yes! I will prepare a body collection unit immediately. We ask that you gain Buckle-sama’s permission to act.”

After giving a salute , the captain starts to run around giving out orders.

After she saw that, she stepped down from the driver’s seat and bowed to me again.

“Arc-sama, thank you again for this time and before. If there is anything you ever need, please visit the feudal lord’s mansion and ask for ojou-sama’s personal maid, Rita Farren. I promise that I will help as much as I’m able to.”

“Understood. You wouldn’t happen to know where I could sell these horses for a good price would you?”

I say so pointing to the line up of horses taken for the bandits. Keeping the six of them is out of the question. I want to sell them , but I’m not sure where to sell them.

“If it is horse-trading, there is a place named Danto’s stable close to the east gate. I think you will be taken care of immediately if you say I referred you”

“I see, well take care then.”

Entering from the east gate, she lead the carriage on the left path, while I take the right path that was pointed out to me.

The place I wound up at was a wooden building with a stable on the side. The signboard, that had a picture of a horse carved into it, was on display. After tying the horses to a post nearby, I entered the stable that had one man taking care of a horse inside. The man was not tall, probably only 160 centimeters, and had a sturdy figure. He was also bold and had

a beard that grow to his chest.

“Excuse my, I was reffed to this place by Rita of the Robert’s estate. I want to sell a few horses.”

When I told the man what I wanted he looked surprised for a bit, but after a quick head to toe inspection he had a smile on his face.

“Is that so. I am the owner of the this stable. Have you a letter of introduction, Danne-sama?”

“No, I don’t have an introduction letter but I was told by Rita that I could sell horses here. I can’t afford the time to let the other party write up an introduction letter.”

The Stable master had a questioning look, trying to discover the meaning of my words. I don’t know if I misspoke, but this is a place that someone in service to the feudal lord recommend. Because of that connection, trust should be possible.

“The Robert house’s ojou-sama was attacked by bandits. I lent a hand in their subjugation. The 6 six bandit horses were the spoils of war. You see?”

“What! Lauren-sama!? Attacked by bandits who used 6 horse…… this uncle hasn’t heard anything like that…… Anyway, lets take a look at those horses.”

Danto followed me outside while stroking his beard, to look at the horse I had tied up. He takes a lamp from the front desk and looks over each horse one at a time.

“I will pay 45 suk for this one here, 30 suk for the others, and 1 sok for all of the saddles.”

I didn’t understand the units or the know the prices, but that should be enough to cover traveling. I nod at the amount offer, thankful that this full body armor hides my inner thoughts.

“Thank you very much. Because we have to pay it in gold, it may take a while. Hey, boys! Put the horses inside!”

After he bowed, he yelled to the back of the stable. Two boys rushed out of the stable and took the horses back with them.

After waiting a while, the manager appeared again with a large bag. We take the bag over to a table so I could confirm the contents. 10 pieces of the the gold 1-yen size coins were piled up. Suk appears to be the unit of the gold coins. There were 19 gold stacks and 6 silver stacks in total.

“196 suk in all, you can check for yourself.”

I counted the approximate number, and drop a few coins on the table to see if they fall at the same rate. There seems to be no problems in particular.

I put them in the leather pouch I already had. I feel that it has become a good weight. Although the gold coins are small, they weight is equip to a 500-yen coin. Though I feel that it is not pure gold, the money is still heavy.

“Thanks for your help. By the way do you know were I could find an inn?”

“An inn is it? There is Mara’s place on the main rode near the center of town… Does Sir

not already have an inn suited for you to stay at?”

“I am a traveler, if it is a place I can lay my head it is enough.”

I thank the manager of the stable and start walking towards the center of town. Night has completely fallen and the area is shrouded in darkness. Occasionally, I would see people hurrying along, but the numbers dwindled as time pasted. However, each time I pasted someone they were startled. It couldn’t be help, a man in full body armor walking around at night was scary.

I found a busy street around 10 meters from the central part of the city. In the city of Rubierute, only the east an west sides seem to have a gate. However, the streets of the southern sections don’t seen to connect to the main road.

Two-story wooden buildings stand in line on both sides of the street, and several shops were giving off light. The place with barrel on it’s signboard is probably a bar, as I can hear the hustle and bustle of the people inside.

I tried to call out to a dizzy man that was outside the bar.

“Hey, I’m looking for Mara’s place. You know where it is?”

” Mr. S-Shiny Knight, I-It itz the building over there!”

Slurring his worlds, the pointed to a building across the street. I thank the man then enter the building to the sound of a doorbell ringing. The sound caused a middle aged man to appear behind the counter. The man opens his eyes wide when he saw me and rushed my way.

“Well well well, a knight is here! What kind of business brings you to this dinky little inn?”

“Um, I’m here to rent a room for the night.”

“Eh!? A-A guest? At my inn?!”

The innkeeper was surely surprised, as his voice became higher with each moment. Well my the outward appearance is a knight after all. When I showed affirmation, the innkeeper timidly handed me the room key.

The charge for the night was one silver piece. Firewood and cooking would cost 1 sek(the silver coin) apiece. You were charge with setting the fire and cooking your own meals, truly a cheap inn. In Japan the meal was included with the nights stay, the concept of a separate charge was from the west.

I go up the stairs at the side of the counter to the second floor. When I enter the assigned room, there was only a small wooden window, and the bed that had a thin cover on it. I place the lamp I received on the edge of the window, as I sit down and take a breather.

Physically I am perfectly fine, but I am mentally fatigued from this day.

I haven’t eaten anything all day, but I didn’t feel hungry. I really do not understand how this body works. It might even be possible that I don’t need to sleep, but let’s give it a try anyways.

Since this inn doesn’t have any security, I better not take off my armor. It would be bad if I

was attacked in my sleep.

I turned off the lamp, and set in the bed with my back to the wall. I close my eyes and folded my arms.

Do my eyes even close? While questioning such a thing alone, the night kept advancing on.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 5

Chapter 5

Translator/ Editor: Silver

「The First Town Rubierute」 Part 2

After parting with Arc-sama near the east gate, I drive the carriage to the feudal lord's mansion in the center of town. The people coming and going became sparse as the night dragged on.

Finally, the gates to the mansion came into view. Surrounded by 4 meter tall stone wall, the gate was made of wood and reinforced with iron. There were also three guards that maintained vigilance in the area.

Upon seeing the family's crest on the carriage, a guard gave the order to open the gate. When the gate open, the carriage enters the garden in front of the mansion. I can realize that guards on watch are upset. After all, the feudal lord's carriage is returning without any of the escorts. The 6 horse tied to the carriage, can only indicate a tragedy has occurred.

The news of our arrival must have reached here already, because the head butler of the Robert family was waiting for us in front of the mansion.

"Rita Farren. What on earth is this!?"

The head butler had thin white hair and a well groomed mustache. Without his usually gentle demeanor, he demanded a explanation from me. When I was going to answer such a question, the door of the carriage is opened with great force. Lauren ojou-sama jumped out the carriage and rushed into the mansion.

The action left a surprised expression on the face of the servants in her wake.

"We had encountered an ambush. Ojou-sama and I are the only ones that escaped. Maudlin-sama and the other escorts fell in battle. I need to report this to the master right a way. "

The head butler was blue in the face, while the other servants were at a loss for world. However the head butler was quick to recover and started to give out orders.

"Rita report this matter to the lord! He should be in the usual work room! You lot, go check on ojou-sama's condition! I will tell Bosco-sama about this!"

Said the past middle-aged butler as he ran to the detached residence on the property.

As I entered the mansion, I walked up the central stairs to the second floor, then travel down the connecting corridor. At the end of the western corridor, I stand before a splendidly decorated ornate door. I knock on the door gently, to which the lord gave permission to enter.

I quietly entered. A desk is centered in a room covered in bookshelves, and magical lamps are used to keep the room bright. The master of the mansion sat behind the desk, while in the midst of working on some kind of memo.

The thin oiled-backed hair, mustache, and round face gave the master a soft impression. However when one locked eyes with him, they would see the sharp glaze of a noble. I watch the moving quill and worry. That is because, reporting the results of the journey is not my normal responsibility.

“Rita, you’re just returned with Lauren from Diento? Did something happen?”

I answer the same way I did when the head butler questioned me.

“What!? Lauren?! Is Lauren safe!!?”

As soon as he hears my report, the master jumped up to confirm the safety of his daughter. He simply could not remain calm knowing that his daughter was attacked.
A man in the prime of his life then entered the room. He had a slim body, and was about 180 cm tall. His features were a mixture of grey hair, long sideburns, and deep wrinkles on his forehead. Although in his 50s, his could still pass for a man in his early 40s. It was Bosco-sama, the directeor of the Robert house’s security.

“I heard the story from the head butler. The carriage was attacked by bandits……, to attack the carriage of a viscount family, what outrageous scoundrels. Earlier, I went to confirm Lauren-sama’s condition, but she refused to leave her room.”

Bosco-sama’s already deep wrinkles deepen farther in, as he holds his forehead and says,

“Let’s hear the exact details of the ambush.”

Hearing that Bosco-sama confirmed ojou-sama’s well-being, I regained a little composure and recount the events in great detail.

“So, after the the first attack you retreated at a top speeds. Nine of the escort stayed behind to confront the 20 bandits, leaving only Maudlin-sama and 5 others with your group, and once the horses stopped to recover you were attacked by a secondary force of bandits.”

“What!? There were 2 ambushes!? Then were Maudlin and the others defected by the second group of bandits? That is quite the considerable tale.”

While standing with his arms crossed, Bosco-sama asked me every detail of the ambush. I told him everything that I could remember from the incident.

“To think that one of the guard was involved with them……! Bosco do a background check on that Casuda, immediately. If he has any relatives bring them in at once!”

“Yes, right away.”

After Basco-sama’s reply, he left the work room. Buckle-sama returned to his desk and sat deeply in his chair.

“A group of bandits that owned six horses……, I haven’t heard of that before.”

It was beyond expectations, when one considered the maintenance and management fees. In addition to food and water, there would also be a need for saddles and horseshoes. It would be rather difficult for a small bandit group to maintain six of them. Only one of the rumored large-scaled groups could manage that.

“It seems that the purpose of the bandits was to take Lauren ojou-sama. It is possible that they were hired……”

“What? ……could it have been the second prince’s faction trying to cause disarray!?”

Buckle-sama’s face was warped in surprise and anger

Within the kingdom of Rhoden, noble factions are increasingly competing over who the next king will be, due to the current king’s old age. The first prince born of the second queen, the second prince born of the first queen, and the the third princess born of the first queen. These three factions have turned the royal castle of the capital into a war-zone. In my life, politics were nothing but idle talk, but to think that here at the northern border, the influence of the strife could be felt.

“Speaking of the second ambush, you say that the knight that appeared did not demand anything?

“Yes, because he saved ojou-sama, I told him that you would be willing to reward him ……, however he only took my copper passport and asked for nothing else…… Was that wrong?”

“If the person said he didn’t need anything then it is alright. Rather, I could breathe a sigh of relief because it doesn’t seem like his involved with the second prince faction. Anyway, I need to send out the order to retrieve Maudlin’s and the other bodies. You are dismissed.”

After bowing at those words, I leave the room.

To me, Arc-sama didn’t seem to be apart of any faction. That person carried himself like any traveler would. However, his body armor was something that even the Lebrun empire’s household knights could only dream of possessing, and his godlike swordsmanship could be counted as a military threat on its own.

In the end, I could not see his real face. Should we meet again I wonder if I would be able to see it? The fear that I carried all day suddenly disappears. On my way to ojou-sama’s room, my footsteps became lighter.

Oops, I shouldn’t be in such high spirits. I need to focus on having ojou-sama regain her smile.

I continued on to ojou-sama’s room at a quick pace.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 6

Chapter 6

Translator/Editor: Silver

「Seeking Employment as an Adventurer」 Part 1

The next day, sunlight entered the room through the wooden window.
I stretch my body, that had gone stiff from sitting on the bed with my back against the wall. Although I didn't have any muscles with this body, it was a ingrained habit. Realizing this, I cracked my neck and stood up.

Daylight fills the room when I open the window. The window faced the main street, so I could already see activity in the streets by looking out.

Something like an open market was open, I could see people selling vegetables and grilled meat, as will as merchants selling art and jewelry. It was no surprise that there was a large turnout of visitors that went about.

After I verify the contents of my luggage and insured that I still had the right amount of money left, I left the inn. Nobody was at the counter, and other guest were leaving as they pleased. It seems that paying in advance was the norm here. What a sloppy business model.

I enter the main street carrying the weapon sack over my shoulder. The people on the street gaze at me in unison, making me feel uncomfortable. I wonder if this type of body armor is still unusual in this world?

Trying to let it go, I set a weapons shop as my first stop.

Heading west from the main road, I saw a signboard cover with a sword & axe over one of the shops. Entering, I see that the shop was crammed with weapons and protective gear. From the back, a middle age balding man appeared. The man had a surprised look on his face, before he began speaking.

"Danne-sama, what can I do for you?"

"I want to sell these. How much?"

I took out the weapons from my sack and placed them on the counter one by one. All of them except one of the daggers because it might be useful in the future.

The owner of the shop picks them up one at a time, so that his can check the condition of each weapon. He places his hand on his jaw while determining a price, before he looks my way again.

"15 suk for the curved sword, 5 for each straight sword, 7 for the mace, and 1 suk and 5 sek for the daggers. The curved sword is sell-able if I polish the blade, but the other swords have damaged cores and need to be repaired. There is little damage on the mace, so I can just sell it as is.

"I don't mind."

“Alright that comes to 50 suk and 5 sek.”

He went to the back and pulled out 50 gold coins and 5 silvers coins. I put them in my leather pouch and placed it on my waist.

With the sell of the weapons and horses, I’ve come into quite a bit of money. The inn I stayed in is priced at 1 sek a night, since 10 silvers equals 1 gold one , I could stay there for over a week with just one gold coin.

However, I don’t know when money would be necessary in this world. I had to find a way to secure funds in case of emergencies……

When the owner of the shop returned after putting the weapons away, I asked him,

“Excuse me, you wouldn’t know were a wanderer could earn a steady income would you?”

“A steady income? With such excellent equipment, isn’t Sir already employed as a adventurer? Adventures usually don’t have to pay the toll for leaving and entering cities,”

It seems that there in normally a toll for entering and leaving cities. Since I entered Rubierute with the feudal lord’s carriage, I didn’t realize that there was one.

Adventurers simply have to show their certification to the gate guards and they would be let right in. Since the the duties of adventurers frequently take them in and out of the city they were excused from the toll. Members of the merchant association seem to have a similar setup, however a price can be charged depending on the amount and types of goods they bring in.

I thank the weapon shop owner and then leave. The adventurers guild was right across the street for the weapon shop. Next to that was merchant association’s building.

The building of the adventures guild was two-stories high, and the wasn’t anything outstanding about it besides the sword & shield signboard. When I open the double-doors, I notice a counter across from the entrance. The strange thing was that it was surrounded in an iron cage, give the whole area a zoo exhibit-like appearance.

One bear sat in the cage. Wait, that’s the body of a man not a bear. He had a stubby beard and short raven-black hair,the area around his left eyes had large scars through it, his muscular arms appeared ready to burst, and his exposed chest was covered in hair.

Were the social advancement of women delayed in this world? Looking around, I only saw stuffy men in this hellhole.

I slowly approached the bear-like receptionist. The one-eyed bear glared at me, as if I was his opponent.

“I would like to join the adventurers guild.”

Across the cage, the expression of the one-eyed bear twisted, when I stated my purpose. The end result of that distortion was an eerie smile, that was clearly never used much…… It gave a whole other meaning to the term “priceless smile”.

“Lookin at you equipment, it doesn’t seem like you have money troubles. The acceptance into the adventures guild includes a background check. As well as a test of strength. If you

can hunt down a beast, monster, or bandit bring the proof here to conform it. Easy right?”

You say that a beast is good, but there are still things like monsters.

Coming here I saw flocks of animals in the hilly area, but I don’t think I past any monsters or if I did I didn’t notice them. I thought back to the idyllic scenery.

Anyway, one of the targets for subjugation was bandits? Would a freshly severed head count as proof then…… However the bandits I caught yesterday were already cremated, so I can’t use those.

“I understood. A few beast , coming up”

Leaving the adventurers guild building, I make my way towards the west gate.

In the middle of the city, there were a verity of places that were selling leather goods. Things like leather coin purses and leather handbags were all around. I pick up an item while on passing though one of the shops. It was a traveler sized gourd, with a small cork attached to the top of it. The gourd seemed like it could carry as much water as a lager bottle. A necessary item for any traveler.

“How much is this?”

“Master, how about 1 suk?”

The merchant laughs, while telling me the 1 gold price. One gold seems rather high, for what was is essentially a water bottle. The atmosphere seem to suggest that they overcharge me based on how I look. I should break this atmosphere with with little threat.

“One suk……huh?!”

“Wait! master. That was a little joke! How is 2 sek and 5 sok? Hihihi……”

The price immediately fell to 2 silver and 5 copper coins. It was 1/4 the original price. It’s possible the the price was still high, but since it was cheaper than before I bought it. I hand over 3 silver coins, and receive five coppers as change. It was hard to find silver coins, since my pouch was full of gold. Perhaps I should buy two more and separate the coins by type.

Besides the gourd I also bought large sack to place the game I hunted in. I paid with 10 copper coins to lighten my wallet a little.

Incidentally, I bought a grilled rabbit from a shop selling food. One rabbit cost two copper pieces, and was wrapped in a leaf-like parchment to take on the go.

Detouring through the private housing section on my way out of town, I spot a small open space before the west gate. A stone aqueduct was built along the path. It seemed to provide drinking water, as I saw merchants filling their gourds and wives from near by houses fill large jars with water. Farther downstream there were women washing vegetables and even farther down people were doing laundry. I had a feeling that the east gate also had such a aqueduct, but I was unaware of them because of how late I came into town.

The crowd calmly divided when I approached the aqueduct, It was like Moses had appeared, but it could of been chalked up to this people instinctively avoiding potential

danger.

I fill my gourd with water before corking it. It should have been about 1 or 2 liters? I then place it in my sack before heading to the gate.

There seemed to be a baggage check at the gate, as even my belongings had to be looked through before I could leave. Around the merchants in line, were what appeared to be bodyguards. Probably due to the exiting tax , there were not a lot of people in my line out the city.

When I finally reach the gate, I'm stopped by a gate guard.

"Halt! It is three sek to leave out this gate.

In response to that, I take out the passport I got from Rita yesterday. The gate guards see it, and they displeases me by having it change hand in order to see if it was real. It might have been better if I spoke up.

When I leave the gate and cross the stone bridge, I stop and take in the view of whole area. In the fields there were people tending to the crops. On each of the farmers necks there was a wooden tag the probably acted as a passport.

While walking away, I think of a trivial thing like that as the city gets farther and farther away.

I don't use 【Dimensional step】right away because I don't want to stand out more then I already do. I'm having enough trouble with my appearances alone.

Up till now, I have yet to see anybody use magic. If magic isn't common in this world, then I could be treated as a witch or monster and be burned at the stack. Even if it does exist, it is doubtful that space and time manipulation would be common. If it were common then what would be the point of horses.

So for now, I will move on foot.

As the highway goes up a gentle slope, the beauty of the whole scenery can be witnessed. To the left was the large river that bent greatly in the southwest direction. Down the hill the road divides into two, one path traveling along the river, while the other one trailed off in the northwest direction. The fields don't spread out beyond this hill. and there are no longer any people on the road. Without any witnesses I can start using 【Dimensional step】to cover the distance.

I decide to take the northwest path. Since I have no map and don't know any identifiable landmarks, it wouldn't be strange if I got lost straying to far from the highway.

【Dimensional step】was convenient when I had a large clear field of vision. Even the distance of 1 kilometer can be taken lightly. The only downside was that I could be easily spotted in clear open fields. Things will get troublesome if I'm careless.

While traveling down the northwestern path, I see a wooded area on the side of the road. There should be beast to hunt as game there.

I materialized at the edge of the forest, and started my trek through them. If there was a dangerous monster here, then I could always escape.

In the forest, I set about finding some game. The distance I could cover was shorter in the forest then in the plains. My armor was more noticeable as well. A camouflaged hunter, I did not make.

As the forest gives way to a stream, I ended up finding a pair of wild boar. Their length was a little over 1 meter, they had statuesque bodies covered in grey hair, and their two tusk covered in a arc-like manner.

It appeared that the two of them were relaxing near this stream. I stand between the gap of two trees, and grip onto my sword. A pale blue light appears, as the sound of metal against sheath is heard.

When the boars try to dash away, I use 【Dimensional step】 to appear ahead of them. When I had finished materializing, I was already in the middle of the swing that cut off the hind legs of the lead boar. I followed that up by transporting again, so that the second boar's hind legs were sent flying.

The boars just lay sideways on the ground, letting out scream-like cries. Moving quickly I stab the two in the gut with my sword. Blood spills out from the guts and leg stems, yet to two continue to cry out.

The water is dyed red, as it carries the boars' blood downstream.

Since the wild boar should be edible, bringing them home should result in some extra income. I once heard that it was best to avoid the instant kill in cases like this because the blood would be left inside the body otherwise and stink up the meat. By letting the heart push out the blood, there would be no odor left in the meat.

I thought it was quite a cruel thing to do in order to eat good meat, as the crying of the boars became feeble.

Then I remembered the spiced grilled rabbit that I bought this morning. Perched on the rocky shores of the swamp, I take off my helmet. The wind blows causing the trees rustle through the forest, while the quiet sound of moving water flows though the area. After stretching a bit and breathed in a breath of fresh air, I pull the grilled rabbit out of my sack.

"Itadakimasu"

After putting my hands together, I unwrap the rabbit from the parcel, and bite into it. The aroma of the herbs is enticing, and the the meat is deliciously salted to perfection. In no time the meat was all gone. I brought out the drinking water I got this morning, and took a swing of water.

It seemed that I could eat and taste as usual, even with this strange body.

"Thanks for the meal"

Finished with my meal, I wash my hand in the water of the stream and sit down again.

It was break to rest myself.

I think his ability to eat and sleep are like the world administrators from EGA. He doesn't need to eat or sleep but can if he wants to.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 7

Chapter 7

Translator/Editor: Silver

「Seeking Employment as an Adventurer」 Part 2

Although this was a different world, it lacked the feeling of fantasy. Frankly speaking, it only gave off the vibe of a world in the Medieval era. There were no floating continents, elves , or even basic monsters such as goblins. I heard that there were monsters, but they were most likely just larger versions of normal animals.

Currently, the most fantasy-like element here was me. Despite being a skeleton, I could eat, walk, talk, and even use magic.

It seemed that the only indicator that this was another world was that there were apparently monster-like beasts about.

Suddenly, I felt something approaching from deeper within the forest. With the sound of footsteps getting closer, the sound of pig oinks became more abundant.

From the depths of the thicket emerged three bipedal pigs that were all around a hundred and sixty centimetres tall.

They had a hunched over posture, thick arms, and were carrying clubs made from logs. They also had reddish skin and wore nothing. Standing on short legs, their stomachs protruded out in front of them.

Fantasy has finally appeared.

Orcs in the game had similar builds, but there were some slight differences. The intelligence seems to be lower than in the game, as this orcs have no metal weapons or armor. They were the all-stars of small fries in the game for level 20-40 players.

If it is only this, I should be able to handle this much with a little wiggle room. My current body was at the highest level of 255 due to my hardcore grinding.

The normal level limit was 250, but that cap was lifted by completing special requirements. The levels after the cap removal granted to ten time the stat boost of the normal a normal level gain, so my actual ability should be equal to a level 300 character.

The three orcs seem to be communicating with their squalls. One points to the two boars laying by the stream and said something. He was gesturing in a way that indicted a good catch.

When they finally notice my figure sitting on a nearby rock, one let out a shrill cry.

“pigii ~~~!!”

“buhitsu!? hugotsuhugotsubuhi!!”

The call seems to have alerted the others, as they all raised their clubs and came charging at me. The speed was not fast in the slightest. I could easily make out the vibrations in

their protruding stomachs as they ran.

Putting on my helmet, I instantly transported behind the them. I proceed to whip out my sword, and cut through the neck of the slowest orc.

“buhiyutsu!?”

The orc head was taken off from the chin upwards.

The other orcs were surprised that the enemy had disappeared, and were desperately looking around. Then the two of them finally realized something.

I swung my sword from the right to the left, and felt no resistance as the slowest orc’s head was sent flying and its body dropped. There was blood gushing out the body of the dead orc.

“pigitsu!!? pigii ~~~!!!”

The remaining two orcs raised a scream, and started to run deeper into the forest.

I didn’t chase after them because I already had the 2 wild boars and 1 orc head.

I drop the head into the water, to wash away the blood. Even though it came from an orc, it looked just like a pig’s head to me. I still put it in the game bag anyway.

The head should count as proof of subjugation.

I went to two boars out by the stream, and began to bind the two with some of the spear rope I had. The 2 should have weighted over 100 kg but due to the level of my body, I barely felt anything.

I move through the grooves of the trees as I start to leave the forest. I got a little turned around as I walked, but I was eventually able to spot the highway.

Out on the highway, I see the day is starting to fade away. It should be around 3:00 p.m. right?

Looking around as I transported, I made my way back to Rubierute. When I just make it to the fork in the road, I saw other people making their way towards the city. From here to the city, It seems that I will have to make the trek on foot.

An hour later, I reached the east gate of the city. I simply showed the guards my pass to get inside.

The people that came before me were surprised, when they looked at the game that I was bringing in. After all it wasn’t something that a normal traveler could carry with one hand.

When I arrived at the adventurer’s guild, I just walk through the double-doors to enter. Unchanged from this morning, the one-eyed bear of a man was sitting in the cage. There was nobody else here but a guy doing office work in the back.

The lips of the bear-like uncle seemed to twist, as I make my way towards the counter.

I originally though the cage was to protect the person at the counter, but looking at the uncle, I imagine that its real propose is to keep a dangerous animal from getting out.

“A bit early. Have you hunted something?”

In response to that, I take the wild boar from over my shoulder and place it on the floor. Then I place my game bag on the counter, and take out the orc head.

“It’s these three. Can a adventurer’s certification be issued?”

“Well, I didn’t think it would be possible to bring back three within half a day. Is it one orc and two wild burba. What about the meat and magic stone of the orc?”

The boars seem to be called burba. It also seem that orc meat was edible. One piece seemed to sell for 5 sek.

Finally, since orcs were monsters, they seemed to have magic stones as their center. When I said that I didn’t take the magic stone, the man laughed saying “You really aren’t strapped for cash”. The magic stone of a orc was about the size of a pinky, and is priced at 1 sek. It seems that I lost out on one silver coin.

It seemed a little wasteful when I though about the cost of one night in a cheap inn. Next time, I should collect as many of them as I can.

After the inspection of the hunted game, a metal plate the size of a dog tag was placed on the counter.

“It is proof of adventure certification. You need to pay the 3 sek registration fee and provide your name.”

“It is Arc.”

After saying my name, I hand the 3 sliver coins to the uncle, and pick up the the adventurer certification plate. There was a 5-digit serial number written in roman like numerals, as well as 3 stars engraved into it.

When I stare at the plate, the unknown letters are translated in my head. 『”Rhoden kingdom, Rubierute branch adventurer』 was engraved on the tag. It was somewhat strange.

That reminds me, I am able to understand the people that I talk to just fine. Really this it……

There has been no trouble with reading or writing.

“What are the stars for?”

“They are used to measure the capability of the adventurers. Three stars mean that you are capable of handling orcs alone. The highest level is seven, but those guys are rare finds.”

The one-eyed bear-like uncle was giving off an improbable aura, as he laughed and smiled.

Among the seven ranks, three stars doesn’t seem to be good or bad. It seemed to be the 『Normal』 ranking in the guild.

“Usually adventurers just pick a job from the board over there.”

Near the entrance was a bulletin board, that was covered entirely with wooden plaques. It was similar to dedication plaques found at a shrine.

I took one of the wooden plaques in my hand. The translation of the writing occurred in

my head, and the description of the text appeared in my mind.

Each of these wooden plaques seem to represent an request. Studying the plaques, it seem that once a request is completed, they sand them down so a new one can be engraved on it. Paper was probably a high-class item.

I decided to look through the request for the time being.

“A chore request wonderland.”

The majority of the quest are chore request, vermin subjugation in fields, crop collecting in the field, debris hauling, cleaning the aqueducts. It would be more accurate to call the adventures guild a labor union. The composition was also rather low.

“A good percent of request require a lot of man power, so the local guild delegates those request regularly. If you’re looking for more lucrative work then you should explore the mercenary section the guild delegates. The adventurers that take on those quest are know to have a lot of pocket money, and it is a great way to build up your reputation”

Doing the mercenary quests is out of the question, the probability of my real form being found out would skyrocket if I did.

I need to do a simple quest for the time being, to get a sense of the atmosphere around here. Thinking it over, I take one of the request plaque off the board and place it on the counter.

It was a request from Rita village to escort a medical herb collection. The reward was quite low, being only a single silver coin. I picked it because I was a little interested in the medical herbs.

The bear-like uncle had a wondering face, when he read the request’s contact.

“Really, are you serious? Frankly speaking, its a job that doesn’t match the reward.”

“No problem. I’m only interested in the collection of the herbs.”

“Are you crazy. You can’t go soft for the client on this request. It would be okay if you took something else.”

The bear-like uncle says so, as he starting the request acceptance procedures. The request was from a 13 year old village girl.

“When the quest is complete have the client hand you the quest completion plaque. When you submit the request and completion plaques together you will be paid in full.”

I leave the guild building after hearing the way to get to the village and thanking the bear-like uncle.

I then enter the merchant association building. Some time ago, the bear-like uncle said I should take the game I hunted here, so that they can buy it off me.

The merchant association building was larger that the guilds one, and there was a lot more staff to deal with the larger number of visitors.

The counter of the association building was divided by iron-barred windows, and there were many employees working behind it. When I called out t0 the staff, a middle-aged

man comes out to greet me.

“Hello. How may I help you today?”

“I’m here to ask about the purchase of these fellows.”

I show the two burba over my shoulder to the receptionist. The receptionist then directed me to the warehouse representative. Exiting the building, a carriage stopped across the street, and I loaded the game before being taken to the warehouse location to see about the purchases.

A thin young man comes out to the table with my catches on it. Then began his inspection of the game. I also took out the head of the orc as well.

“It’ll be 7 sek and 5 sok for the burbas, and 1 sek for the orc head. In total that comes to 1 suk and 6 sek.”

The burba were worth 7 pieces of silver and 5 copper pieces apiece, while the head was worth one silver. While I though about such things, the staff member pulled out one gold coin and five silver ones. An extra copper is also paid.

I place the money in my pouch and left.

The sun has long since started to set, and dusk was starting to dye the the area.

I’ll stay the night here again, then depart for Rata village in the morning.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 8

Chapter 8

Translator/Editor: Silver

「What, These Aren’t Medicinal Herbs? It’s a Monster!」 Part 1

The next morning, I wake up to the noise of the market.

I had stayed the night in the same inn as before. My sleeping position was also the same as before, sitting on the bed with my back against the wall.

Straightening out my stiff body, I grab my luggage and carry it to the first floor.

No one was at the counter again. I open the door and enter the main street, heading straight for the east gate.

In order to complete the request I received yesterday, I had to go to Rata village which was half a day away by horse.

I found a shop that sold bread while I was making my way through the market. There was only one type of bread, the texture is like a baguette, but it is shaped like a large piece of melon bread. The price was the same as the grilled rabbit I bought yesterday. It seemed a little expensive, but I buy it just to try it out.

After that I continued on my way, only stopping at the aqueduct to refill my gourd. The small plaza in front of the gate had several armored men hanging around, and their eyes frequently darted all around. Perhaps they are members of a mercenary corps that is based in town.

The gate is the same as the other, so I simply show my pass and leave out of it. I walk northward along the town wall, until I pass the wheat field’s moat. Along the way, farmers in the middle of the fields would stop what they were doing and bow their heads to me. They seem to think that I was a royal knight.

When I reached the north side of Rubierute, a larger pathway than the one leading here appeared. I push forward on this northward path. Once I was out of view of the field and pedestrian travel had stopped, I proceed to advance with 【Dimensional step】.

The route that I was told, instructed that I should take the left path at the fork in the road. After a while of traveling, a post stuck into the ground appeared at a split in the road. The left side deteriorated into a flatted grass path, indicating that it at at least had been used. While taking note that the path ran through the woods, I resumed my transfers down the now grass road.

On the other side of the forest, a village surrounded by a mud and log wall, and adjacent to a small field came into view. The village is surrounded by its own moat, and part of the gate seems to be suspended from some firm ropes. If an enemy tried to attack, the village could just drop a section of the the gate on them.

In front of the gate, were two old men with spears, that were sitting and sharing a story.

From here it was a short walk, when one of the men spots me, he quickly notified his partner. The two elderly men make a hand gesture in my direction before they resumed talking to one another.

While one of the men raised their spears, I ran right up to the village. To be honest, the impression the gatekeepers invoked did not seem all that reliable.

“kn-kn-Knight-sama! Wh-What business brings you you to such a remote village?”

“Hmm, there is no need to be so formal. I’m just an adventurer. I have come here today to complete the request of Marca of Rata village.”

“Marca? You don’t mean the oldest child of Senna do you?”

“Old man, could you guide me to Marca’s house?”

‘”Y-YES! No problem.”

After the reply, the old men let me into the village. While the other gatekeeper seemed annoyed because of the extra work, I paid him no mind as I continued into the village.

Once I entered, every pair of eyes in the village were centered on me. They were probably cautious because outsides, especially ones in full body armor, were a rare thing. I feel that the reaction will be the same everywhere I go……

The houses in the village, did not give off the feel of actual houses. They were more like huts then anything else.

The old man knocks on the door of one of the huts, and calls to the resident inside.

“Senna, are you in there!? There is a visitor here for you!!”

I hear the reply of a woman from inside, after a while the door is gently opened. However, I see no one within the gap. Lowering my gaze, a girl that looked around 10 years old is seen.

“Ah, Helena? Where is your mother? This knight here needs to talk with her.”

When the girl called Helena heard the old man’s questions, she opened the door completely and urged us to enter.

“Well Knight-sama, as for me……”

The old man said only that, before retreating back towards the gate.

“I’ll be entering”

Once inside the house, I saw a large stone fire pit, that had a pot set atop it. In the corner, some wooden tableware was arranged. On the floor of the rest of the home, were a couple wooden furnishings. A table with four chairs around it, and and 2 beds with screens around them.

The girl was standing next to the table with a worried expression. She had bowl-cut dark blond hair, and brown eyes that reflected an active mind behind them.

From the bed, limping along, came a women. She also had the dark blonde hair of the girl, but hers was tied in the back and reached her shoulders. Her clear blue eyes were

surrounded by a delicate and freckled face. She was around 170 cm tall, and her abundant chest was masterfully bound within her dress like clothing.

“I am Helena’s mother, Senna. Wh-what business might you have with us? I do not believe that my family has any connections to a knight household……”

“My name is Arc. I’m not a knight, I’m an adventurer. So please relax yourselves. A lady with a bad leg, should be sitting when she talks.”

“Th-Thank you…… So what brings you to our home?”

The mother, Senna, bowed a little before sitting in one of the tables chairs. I also take a seat after she was firmly seated. It was a good sturdy chair.

To the question of my purpose here, I reached into my sack and showed her the request plaque.

“As I said my name is Arc, and I have taken up this request from the adventurer’s guild. A girl named Marca is the one that place the request. Is she here?

“Eh? She did such a thing?! Marca is out in the fields right now……, she should be back this afternoon.”

Unfortunately, the girl that made the request seems to be out for the time being. She’ll return around noon, it shouldn’t be that much of a wait. I could afford to stay here until then.

“I could wait here for her. ……If it isn’t to much trouble, could you tell me what happened to your leg?”

To kill my boredom, I try to start up a conversation. It was a little sad to watch her move around with that cloth bandage over her left leg.

“It’s fine. A large monster appeared close by recently…… I injured my leg while escaping, so now Marca has to work in the field alone. However, I’m one of the lucky ones. At the time of the incident someone died, causing the whole village to be thrown into turmoil……”

It appears that I picked the wrong topic, give the atmosphere in the house. Helena, who had been hiding behind her mother, glanced over my way when the atmosphere became heavy.

That reminds me, don’t I have the sub-class of pope? Shouldn’t I be able to heal her injury? It was, after all, it was the upper limit of the priest class. So a wide verity of healing and curse removal spells should be possible.

Wait, the high level healing abilities of a pope wouldn’t be needed. First I should test out the low level healing spells of a priest. Since I haven’t been injured since I came here, I haven’t had the chance to test out healing magic. I’ve only used the attack magic 【Flame】 so far.

“Ma’am, if it’s alright with you, could I examine your leg. Since it’s been a while, I don’t know if it will work, but I can try to heal your leg.

“Huh? N-No, that’s……”

Confused at the proposition, the mother let out a high voice.

No wonder, I mean we only met today. Furthermore the other party's face is concealed by a helmet. If suddenly asked to show you leg, you'd certainly want to refuse.

However, when young Helena heard that her mother's leg could be healed, she stared at me for a moment. Then she gently lifted the wounded leg up, so that I could inspect it.

The mother, Senna, smiled wryly as she resigned herself to fate.

Agreeing to it, I place my right hand over the wounded leg and tried to invoked the spell. Softly chanting 【Heal】, white lights appeared from my hand and wrapped around Senna's leg. Upon contact, the lights were absorbed into her skin.

The mother and daughter vacantly watched the spectacle before them , but afterward Helena removed the bandage from her mother's leg. What emerged from the bandage was a perfectly fine leg.

"Mom! There is no injury! No scars either!!"

Helena's demeanor completely changed from a while ago. Now she had a large smile and could not seem to stop jumping for joy.

Looking at her daughter's smile, Senna rubbed her head before bowing to me.

"Thank you very much. Arc-sama, you surely must be a famous priest. I can't believe that there is no trace left of the wound……"

"No, I only wanted to try since it had been a while, I didn't even have much confidence that it would work. The wound was healed, and that's for the best"

Actually, this was my first time using recovery magic in real life, so I'm the one that is benefiting the most here…… Judging from her reaction, there seems to be an awareness of healing magic. Now only the extent of this world capability with it is unknown.

"I'm home mother."

The eldest daughter, Marca, finally returned home from the field. The curious girl place a large collection baskets near the door. Her height was around 150 cm, and her light brown hair was tied into pigtails, that rested above her shoulders. Her blue eyes were the same as her mother's. She was also tanned a healthy color.

"Marca, did you put out a request to the adventurers guild? I am here to complete that request. You are the requester right?"

"Ah! My request was received by Knight-sama?! The request was for a escort for medicinal herb collecting."

"Are you mad! The herb collection is dangerous on its own! Yet you intended to go, even with the recent monster appearance?!"

"But……, The request fee has already been paid for and the reward was already posted……"

The mother, that heard the content of the request, harshly refused it. Marca frowned, as the request had already been paid for. I wonder what happens when the client abandons the

request? The absurd notion of lost profits spring form my head.

“So! I will go to collect the herbs instead!”

“Wait a minute mother! How can you go collecting with that injured leg!”

“Quite down and listen Marca! Knight-sama has already healed my leg! Therefor it is alright for me to enter the forest!! Look.”

Senna lifted the hem of her skirt a little, to show Marca the completely healed leg. Upon seeing the healed leg, Marca looked my way in surprise.

“I’m grateful that my mother’s leg was completely healed. Mother, you don’t even know where the herbs grow! So it is pointless for you to go!”

Apparently the mother’s knowledge of medicinal herds wasn’t that high. Night might come before the mother and daughter finish this argument.

“You are the reason that I sought an escort. Did you see the state of that injury mother?!”

“Then it’s decided!! Knight-sama will guide you through the forest!”

After being told so, Marca picked up her basket and left the went outside. After realizing what just happened, I chase after her. As I left the house I received another thank you from Senna. If trouble appears, I can just grab Marca and escape with 【Dimensional step】.

When I look around in in the village, Marca was waving her hand at me near the gate. I hoist my sack over my shoulder again and start heading over there. Together with Marca, I leave the village and walk along its northern perimeter.

“Knight-sama, thank you again for taking this request. Half of the reason I needed to collect the herbs was because of my mothers injury. However, since Knight-sama already healed it, I only have one reason now.

Marca said so, while laughing amusingly.

“Hmm, so what’s this reason to go then?”

“Last year, my father passed away do to illness. I help in the field, but it is still quite hard on us. The medicinal herbs can be bought at a good price in the city, it could ease the strain on mother a little…… Every year, I picked herbs with my father, and he would sell them, you know.”

“To fully ease the strain of your mother would take a lot of herbs. Isn’t the trip also dangerous?”

“Don’t you know, going from this forest you will be at the foot of the wind dragon mountain range. In the deeper parts, you find things like land dragons or wyverns, but it should be safe if we stay in the shallow areas. Although, we can’t stay to long because there are more monsters here than in other forests.”

I listen to Marca’s explanation as we enter the forest. Apparently, northeast of our current location was the wild dragon mountain range. Far away the white summits of the mountains can be seen.

While advancing through the forest, the pressure to leave this place only grow the further

we went in.

Marca seemed to have found something, as she started to run. We approached a piece of land that was more sunken in than the surroundings, and had many rocks at the center of the pit. Between the the rock, a small patch of plants could be seen.

Marca goes down there, and starts to fill her basket with the plants. An innumerable amount of lotus shaped plant seem to have been collected at a fast pace.

“This is the cocla medicinal herb. It is effective in the treatment of wounds and skin diseases”

While collecting the herbs, Marca shook her braids and explained the plant’s uses. I scanned our surroundings, but there were no signs of beast or monsters. So I went down to help collect the cocla plant myself. Seeing my clumsy state, Marca started to laugh.

It seemed that watching a man, well over 2 meters tall and in full body, struggle to pick plants was an amusing sight.

After an hour, the basket was half full with the cocla plants. Though there were still some plants left between the rocks, Marca said we were moving to the next site. The next site was apparently the main collection site.

Once again the pressure to leave increased as we went farther along. When the wild animals noticed the pressure, they turned heel and ran, although we have yet to encounter any monsters.

We advanced in the forest for a while, before coming across a clearing. A gentle slope extends out, as I notice that the surrounding tree branches were a pale white, and that the trees were enclosed by circles of fallen white flowers. A sweet fragrance was also carried by the wind.

“We made it! The flowers are in full bloom! The kobumi tree branches are all pale white!!”

Filled with joy, Marca began to run toward the line of kobumi tress at full speed. I quickly tried to let out a warning for Marca to remain still. Beyond the tress, I saw a rock like object. But unlike a normal rock, this thing gave of the feeling of a living being.

“Marca, don’t move!! Something is hiding there!!!”

“Eh?”

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 9

Chapter 9

Translator: Silver Editor: Anyone that spots my mistakes.

「What, These Aren't Medicinal Herbs? It's a Monster!」 Part 2

Whether in reaction to Marca's movement or my yell, the creature shook its massive body, before standing up.

I was able to grasp its structure from here. From head to tail, its lizard-like body exceeded well over 6 meters. It has six strong looking legs, and spotted greyish-green scales. On its head was a green cockscomb, on its back were color changing scales, and on it's tail was an array of spiny protrusions. The centerpiece of it all were the eyeballs bigger then its head, giving the thing a chameleon like appearance.

It opened its wide mouth, revealing that it's jaw was pack full of fangs, and let out a weird cry.

"kurorororoooooooooo!"

I remembered such a creature from the game.

Giant Basilisk.

A monster in the level range of 150-170, it can be said that it isn't an enemy with high attack power. However, for beginner and intermediate players, the combination of petrifying eyes, poison mist, and paralyzing claws made for a deadly combo of abnormality effects.

It really was a dangerous forest, for it would be nearly impossible for a ordinary villager to deal with it. Wait, why is this monster here?

Upon seeing the figure, Marca started to run away from the Kobumi trees, back to my side.

However, it gave chase. The Giant Basilisk raised its six legs and chased after her, only for it to suddenly stop following for some reason, and began to shake its head up and down. This strange movement allowed me to see that its cockscomb had turned red.

Was the tell the same as the game?!

It looked like it was about to use its petrifying gaze attack, the gaze was usually released in a fan-shaped arc for wide-spread damage.

Throwing down the sack, and reached for the shied on my back. I run to Marca and picked her up, before placing her behind the shield in my right hand.

The mythical grade equipment 『Heavenly shield of Titus』. It can prevent most abnormal status effects depending on the level difference, and it raised all abnormal resistances. With this shield, I take a defensive posture.

The next moment, the "paan" sound of a sonic boom is heard through the whole area as

dull shock waves run though the shield. I see Marca, in the shadow on the shield, covering her ears and closing her eyes. From were I stand everything is normal. The petrification seems to have been negated.

In the game there was a cool-down time for the attack, but I can't depend on that here. In addition, it is impossible to take advantage of enemy attack patterns.

I step forward quickly, and hide Marca behind my back. I place my hand on the sword at my waist. Due to Marca's presence, this has to end with a long-range attack.

Holy Knight's skill【Sword of judgment】!!

My sword began to shine with light, as I unsheathed it and swung it down on the spot. Instantly, a magic circle formed under the giant basilisk's feet, and a sword of light appeared above its head.

"gurorooroooooooo!!!"

The 5 meter long sword pierced the bulky body of the giant basilisk. Afterwards, a sound like shattering metal rings in the area, as the light sword started to crumble.

As calmness returned to the area, the bulky body of the giant basilisk hits the ground with a thud. I did not move an inch, as I observed the surroundings still in the downward swing position. The power of the blow seems to have killed it……

Did the【Sword of judgment】always create such a massive light sword? Did the strain of the situation cause me to apply more power to the skill then normal? Or was it the same as before, just with the power increased in reality…… Either of those could be a good explanation; I just don't know which was right.

While clinging to my back, Marca could only look at the fallen monster and reply with a "Wow!"

"Marca, was that the monster that recently appeared around the village?"

"No. It wasn't so big when I saw it. I think the one that's around the village is called a Fanged Boar?"

Macra's pigtails shook when she shakes her head no. Noticing something, she pointed a finger to the slope and spoke up.

"Ah! There's another one over there!!"

I looked over to were her finger was pointing, and sure enough, there was another giant basilisk on the other side of the slope. When I made eye contact, the monster made a hasty retreat.

"Hmm, it went off somewhere."

It might be cautious because its friend was defeated. Since there is no sign of anything else, the herb collection can continue.

"Marca. Are the kobumi plants still good?"

When I ask so , she goes running to the kubumi trees. When she reached the base of one, she started to pluck the branches of the white flowers.

After seeing such a sight, I return my gaze to the defeated giant basilisk. Its 6 meter long body was laying on the ground. While I don't know the location of the heart, since it was a monster it should have a magic stone. Finding it in this large body will be a challenge. Will it be in a position similar to a crocodile's or a lizard's heart?

I roll the hulking beast on its backside. Incredibly, it was an easy feat to accomplish. Was the position of a crocodile's heart near abdomen or the forepaw? Since it seemed a little hard to do with the dagger in my sack, I have to use my sword to cut out the heart. When I sliced open the basilisk's abdomen , a stone the size of a baby's fist came out. I held the stone in the sunlight, and it reflected a purple light in my eyes. With this stone I should be alright for a while.

Since you probably can't eat the basilisk like the orcs, its body will become the nourishment of the forest. After all, the pig-like orcs are a hundred steps above this grotesque chameleon. By all odds it doesn't seem like it would be delicious anyway. It also seems like it would be hard to carry back……

"Knight-sama, could you reach the flowers on the top?"

While I was pondering the treatment of the giant basilisk, Marca asked for assistance. Putting the magic stone in my bag, I walk toward the kobumi tree next to Marca.

The flowers of the kubumi tree extended out on every branch. They were an arrangement of five small white petals, and released an indescribably sweet aroma.

Marca had started to gathering the flowers of the lower branches already.

"What effect do these have?"

"Umm〜 father didn't teach me. Once they are dried and turned into powder, he would only sell it to adults for a high price. Since it can cure illness, it has to be a medical herb right? Knight-sama, do you know any disease that only adults suffer from?"

Without stopping, Marca asked such a question.

A disease only adults get……, like a geriatric disease? However, that was the generic name of a disease and it was changed when a child died from it. I couldn't come up with anything.

"No, I don't know the name of any disease like that "

"I see〜. Next time, I will ask a expert. If I don't know the effects of the merchandise, I can be taken advantage of."

She laughs saying so.

The two of us worked fast to pick the flowers, and in no time the basket was full. I also put some of the flowers into my game sack. When the sack was full, I hoist it over my shoulder and prepare to head back.

On the way back, I still followed behind Marca. She seemed to use topography to find her way around the forest, but to me it all just looked the same. If not for her, the expedition would have ended up a disaster.

As the density of the trees faded away, the field around the village came back into view.

There, a large black boar was digging up the land.

“Ah, the fanged boar! That’s the one that attacked the village before. It came so close to the village.”

Noticing either Marca’s voice or our presence, the fanged boar raised its head and let out a roar. It and the burba radically differed in terms of size. Its body was 2 meters long and it stood at around Marca’s height. There were also four tusks protruding from its lower jaw.

After building some power in its hind legs, the boar charged at us. I quickly lowered my sack and stared down the approaching fanged boar.

However the mad dash didn’t seem all that fast to me. Taking the rush head on, I grab the set of tusk with my hands, and slam the boar against the ground. The fanged boars head hit the ground at high speed, and after that it fall silent.

In a rage, I started to stab at its abdomen with my sword, when I remember something. While the boar could act wild with its powerful limbs, if I hold down its head, there would be no problem.

“Marca, I will deliver the final blow. Ask a hunter of the village or somebody else if there is something in the village that this thing can be loaded on?”

“Y-Yes. Understood! Please wait!!”

Marca responded in a hurry, before running towards the village. Seeing her off, I hope that she doesn’t fall down on her way there.

After a few minutes, a couple villagers arrive while pulling a trolley cart.
When they arrived, the boar was covered in its own blood and had lost the ability to move. It could only let out small breaths now.

The villagers stared at the dying fanged boar in a state of shock, before letting out a unanimous cheer of admiration. Under the instructions of a hunter, I placed the now dead beast onto the cart.

“How should we handle the disposal of this fellow, Knight-sama? The fur is usable, and the tusk can sell for a good price. The meat should also be delicious. You can have it carried into town if you hire a few villagers.”

While the the hunter inspects the game, I ask about its treatment.

“Hmm, I heard this fellow was a monster. Could you tan the pelt of this guy, and accept the tusks and magic stone as a reward? Also give the tanned pelt to Marca when it’s ready.”

“Huh? Would that be alright?”

“Eh, I get the pelt?! Knight-sama!”

The two of them were utterly shocked at my request. Though they say the pelt had great value, I had no use for it. So I gifted it to Marca, satisfied with the pleasure of her receiving it. A 40 year old uncle that is generous to small children (setting).

“I don’t mind. I think you should also distribute the meat within the village.”

The villagers pulling the cart heard what I just said, and unanimously voice their gratitude. Due to the monster appearing in the field frequently, the village appeared to have been experiencing problems. They even thought of forming a hunting party, or placing a request to the adventurer's guild.

It's likely that this fanged boar appeared near the village because it was driven out by the giant basilisks from earlier.

Once in the village, the fanged boar was dismantled by the side of the hunters house. When the news of the catch spread, everyone in the village became peeping toms, as they came to watch. The village chief even came out to personally thank me.
In the meantime, the day started to give way to night.

Since I could not do it, I leave the meat distribution and pelt removal to the hunter and volunteers. While, I return to Marca's house. I needed to deliver the harvested Kobumi plants that were still in my game sack anyway.

Marca was in a good mood because she would be able to eat meat for a while.

"I'm home , mother! Guess what! Knight-sama was able to defeat the monster that was attacking the village!!"

When Marca got in, the first thing she mentioned was not the results of the harvest, but the monster subjugation.

"Huh!? You encountered the monster!? Is anyone hurt!? Are you hurt?!"

Her mother panicked, and grabbed hold of her to check for injury. She only lets out a sigh of relief, once she knew everything was alright. When she noticed her mother was crying, Marca became misty-eyed and repeatedly apologized to her. The youngest, Helena came and started to hug her sister from behind.

"Thank you very much for watching after my daughter. I don't know how to express my gratitude……"

"According to the request, I was to serve as Marca's escort. Marca, since the quest is complete, could you give me the completion plaque?"

"Ah, yes!"

Upon my request, she took out a wooden block, the size of a business card, from her clothes pocket. The request serial number was written on the wooden block.

"Thank you for everything."

After an exaggerated nod, the cute Marca lowed her head and thanked me. I approached her and gently whispered,

"Marca, keep it a secret that we came across that large monster. I don't want to worry your mother anymore than this."

When I said so, she laughed in agreement. I place the wooden block in my luggage bag before leaving the house, while waving back at her.

After leaving the house, I could still hear the villagers chatting over at the hunter's house. They were probably still dismantling the fanged boar. As sunset dyed the sly orange, a

flock of birds was spotted entering the forest.

I have to get back to Rubierute before the gates closes. With the use of 【Dimensional step】, I could simply transfer into the center of the city from outside the walls, but that will be a last resort.

I backtrack my way to the path from the village's gate, while passing by returning fieldworkers. When I make it past the field, the presence of other people disappeared, and only the sound of rustling leaves and plants could be heard.

I will try to return to the city with 【Transfer gate】this time. Last time I tried it, I only traveled 7 meters from where I was. It is still possible that this magic only works if you can visualize the location you wish to travel to.

I set the hall overlooking Rubierute as the transfer location. It was a location with little pedestrian traffic and I can clearly envision it in my mind. If I can get this work, then I would have a convenient way to travel to places I've already been. Locations with similar landscapes will probably be impossible though.

Firstly, I try to firmly place Rata village into my memory. Looking back, I see smoke from multiple stoves rising from the village. That reminded me, I still had the bread left from this morning.

Turning away from the village, I bring the Rubierute city set point to the forefront of my mind.

"【Transfer gate】!"

The 3 diameter pale magic formation appears as I active the spell. My vision goes dark for a moment, and I'm left with a floating sensation. Before I realized it, the scenery had completely changed.

I was standing on the hill overlooking Rubierute. It seemed that【Transfer gate】was a success. Now if I increase the number of destinations, I should be able to wander around with ease. It is a truly great magic.

I entered the city from the east gate, and made my way to the adventurers guild's building. I hear the gate closing bell shorty after my arrival, it seems I have just barely made it.

Entering the guild building, I'm greeted by the evil smile of the caged-bear uncle. I'm a little impressed that Marca was able to come to place, where such a brutal person resided, and make her request.

"The request is completed. Can I get the proof of completion?"

I open my luggage bag, and place the request and completion plagues on the counter. After confirming it, the bear uncle hands over a silver coin. With this my first request is complete.

Today I will also stay at the cheap inn again, but what should I do from tomorrow onward?

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 10

Chapter 10

Translator: Silver

「Strategic Retreat」

The next morning starts at the usual inn, and I wake up with my usual appearance.

While sitting on the bed, I took out the bread from yesterday. I took a drink from my gourd after biting into the bread. The bread was very different from what I used to eat in the other world. There is a salty taste to it, and it is heavier and harder. It like it just sits in the pit of your stomach……

While there was a bakery in the city, it seems that that villages only made it for festivals and other celebrations. I learned from Marca yesterday, that villagers mainly eat wheat rice porridge.

It was unexpected that they would have Japanese porridge in this world. Its impossible to have takeout, but I could make it for myself in a deserted location. This body was a mixed blessing. I don't have to fear overeating but it was hard to find places to eat.

When I finished eating the not so good bread, I carried my luggage down to the first floor. I passed by the empty counter and exit the building.

I headed to the adventurers guild on the main street. Today there were a few adventures standing in front of the request board. This is the first time I've seen so many people in the guild building. When I approach the request board, without even speaking, the other adventures looked my way in surprise.

After all the request board only had personal request that gave out pocket money. There wasn't a single plaque that offered more then 5 silver coins on it. Since there were no quest that interested me today, I decide to go hunt game on the outskirts of town and sell it to the merchant association.

The destination is south of Rubierute, I enter the forest on the opposite side on the river bank. I was excited because its like I'm going to explore a new map in the game.

I ended up searching the forest on the other side of the river all day. I first came across a small group of orc, but after I beat one the others ran away at full speed. It appears that orcs were cowardly monsters.

I carried the orc I killed over my shoulder.

The forest had a variety of monsters and animals in it. A majority of which I didn't know. But unlike the game, they were hesitant in trying to kill me. Drops didn't fall and my experience point didn't increase when I killed a monster either.

Yet, the living area of humans was predominantly small. Perhaps the territories can't expand without a constant monster killing force.

Deep inside the forest I found a minotaur inside a cave. The minotaur was about 3 meters

tall, with the head and lower body of a cow, and the upper body of pure human muscle. If it was the game, then this fellow would have been equipped with an iron axe, as the race had acquired metal crafting long ago for the purpose of destroying humanity. But just like the orcs, this guy was still carrying around a club.

Speaking of which, I have yet to see a human use magic. Magic should be one of the weapons supporting the human territories. Maybe the nature of the power and the power structure of this world keep magic out the reach of commoners.

While thinking about such things, I crossed through the west gate, and made my way to the merchant association's warehouse. Like last time, the thin young man came out to the inspection table. I sat the orc down from my shoulder and asked the price.

"One orc is 7 sek and 5 sok."

It was the same as the one meter long burba? These bodies were cheap. Was it because the orcs were easier to chase down than the burba?

Well since my goal is to steadily earn an income I don't mind. When I said I'd except the offer, then man left his seat to prepare the money.

While I calmly waited for my payment, I started to hear two merchants talking. It's common sense not to ignore information that can be useful to you.

"Recently, there's a rumor going around about a strong monster appearing near the border. Near the east border village and Reburan, a caravan that was passing through suffered heavy damages."

"The forest is close to the wind dragon mountain range, it's not unusual for there to be more monster around there, is it?"

"Idiot, monsters don't usually come all the way down to the road."

"Hmm, could a dragon be on a rampage in the mountain range?"

The staff member appeared with my payment while I was in the middle of thinking about the dragon the merchants mentioned. After verifying the amount, I place the money in my pouch.

Taking a leisurely walk though the city, I contemplate returning to the usual inn today. I need to establish my own base someday and determine where I should wander from there. A base of my own will allow me to remove this armor and relax without worrying about anyone seeing.

With 【Transfer Gate】, even if my base is at the bottom of the sea I can instantly move back to town.

First, I should investigate the geography while earning a steady income.

Third person point of view

The city or Rubierute has strategic importance, as its highway runs through both the city of Diento and the royal capital, that is in the center of the Rhoden kingdom.

Going from the northern boarder of the capital there are two major bypasses around the calcutta mountain range. One path leads to the east while the other to the west.

Although a short distance from the capital, the western path leads to the ribot wastelands. The wastelands were dotted with small towns where the water supply was scarce. The barren terrain also made large-scale transportation difficult.

In comparison, the eastern path traveled down the rydell river, that brings water into the capital, and is composed of a low hilly terrain. In addition, the the eastern side of the calcutta mountains is dotted with comparatively large cities. You had to cross the rydell river, which flowed from the wind dragon mountain range, twice on this path, but other than that its relatively easy to advance.

Diento is the city upstream the rydell river, and it was stationed right in front of a major bridge. The 300 meter long stone bridge starts off at the city's south gate and crosses the entire river. This fact also means that the city can also be viewed with strategic importance. Therefor, the city was built with double layered walls that allowed the city to act as a fort when needed.

The city was governed by marquis Triton. The castle in the center of town could be compared to a fortress in its own right. The castle walls were twice the size as normal, and the moat twice as wide.

In the office of the fortress, marquis Triton was going over the open documents on his desk.

Diento's marquis was a large man well past middle aged, had gray hair that reach his legs, and had grown a white mustache. His was dressed up in overly flamboyant clothes, that appeared to tightly wrap around his large frame.

Hearing a knock on the office door, he raised his eyes from the documents and gave permission for the person to enter.

"Excuse me"

The one that entered the office was Cyrus Dorman. The nervous Cyrus's face was pale, as he slicked back the thinning hair on top of his head, to cover up his bald spot.

Cyrus came before the desk and offered a deep bow to his master. Although, he did slick his hair back again when it fall out of place.

"The matter in Rubierute…… seems to have ended in failure."

At Cyrus 's words Triton twitches. He lifts his head from the paperwork, seats back in his chair, and lets out a large sigh.

"When I asked for talent, I heard that they were skilled correct?"

"I'm sorry. They were indeed talented, all of the escorts were defeated, but unluckily an adventurer was near by, and he defeated the bandits……"

"After all, a bandit is a bandit…… The bottom line is sweet! Having only kept the women alive, they lost due to their own carelessness."

With a bitter expression, lord Triton spit out his criticism. A look of agreement is seen on the pale-faced Cyrus.

"Why does prince Douglass want to sow discord in Rubierute anyway?"

“Well. In order for prince Douglass to gain the support of the east he has sent out this demand. If the northern border joins his highness’s faction then the east will completely belong to him, and he would be able to pursue Reburan in the west without worry. This would be beneficial to us because trading in the east will be centralized here.”

“Rubierute has the support of the west, so it likely to join her highness’s sect. Since it has yet to aligned with a faction, this shouldn’t be publicly know, but ……”

“If this isn’t discovered then it should be fine. We must hurry and secure the products. You must ship them soon. We need them delivered to the proper nobles before anyone catches wild of the plan! You must insure that princess Juliana doesn’t find out about this.”

Triton’s large body wiggles as he reaches into his desk’s drawer, pulls out a cigar, and lights it. Puffs of smoke are slowly exhaled, while a coughing Cyrus reports the products’ status.

There are 4 products and they are being held in the “storehouse” underground. I will go secure the new addition right now……”

“Securing the products is getting harder as well. Have the men been acting with unnecessary vigilance?…… Hurry it up as much as possible. I haven’t seen Audrain in a while, how is that fool doing?”

“When I checked in Audrain-sama’s room, he said the the swords used for the product procurement were not satiable for the task.”

“That imbecile! This is not a game! The swords are enough to enter the elves’ forest with, anything else would just drag them down!! I’ve heard enough, leave.”

Upon hearing those words Cyrus gave a gracious bow before quietly leaving the room. Triton took one last puff of the cigar before violently rubbing it out, he then scowled at the documents open on the desk.

Arc point of view

A few days later, although I have been investigating the area around Rubierute to find an ideal base location, nothing has changed in my day to day life.

The figure of my flashy armor attracted a lot of attention at first, but things seemed to have calmed down now. Yet, the only places I can eat are inside my inn room or far outside of town, simply because I never know when people might be looking at me.

However today was different because of what happened this morning. It happened after I left the inn, looked at the request in the guild building, and left for the west gate to investigate and earn my daily income.

However, downtown had an unusual atmosphere today. Moving towards the west gate, the amount of people was larger then normal. I decided to walk behind a pair of men heading towards the gate so I could listen in on their conversation.

“I heard that the party that brought down the giant basilisk only has five people in it! They should be bringing it to the square now!”

“That’s true!? That thing killed so many people, the party must be really strong…… Giant basilisks are large game, after all. In the neighboring territories has there ever been any

stories about them?”

“Recently there have been a lot of stories like this one. Is it a bad omen or something?”

It seems that a group was able to kill a giant basilisk. In this world it seems that doing so was a major achievement. However, it appears that it was a monster that is rarely seen. Thought I saw two of them in the wind dragon forest……

The small square was already crowded with people, in the center of the square was a wagon surrounded by five people, one of the five was reciting their heroic battle while making hand gestures.

It was like being at a play, as the townspeople devoured the story that they were listening to.

A giant basilisk was cut into portable pieces and pilled on the wagon. Certainly it would be impossible to carry the gigantic body on the wagon in one piece. The head was enshrined at the top of the pile for everyone to see.

While watching, I tried to ask a nearby large man a question.

“Is slaying the monster giant basilisk such a big deal?”

The man I asked immediately turned around in surprise, and with a baffled expression answered my question.

“Kinght-sama, when a giant basilisk appears ether a famous adventurer party needs to be employed or the fedual lords army has to be sent out. Simply put, it take a lot of money to take even one of them down. It seem that the poisonous meat can be dried and powdered to make poison darts used for monster subjugation though.”

How much could you make if you bring back one…… But it would surely cause an uproar if I kill one alone and bring it back.

I was contemplating this when a group separate from the normal crowd catches my eye.

The group of metal armored soldiers are led to the center of the square by a civil officer-like man in good attire. The people around noticed it, and the noise in the square gradually died down, until only a few whispers could be heard.

A pathway opened directly to the center of the square, and the group of soldiers and adventures faced each other.

The man in the fine clothes was tall but skinny, looked to be in his mid 30s, and stood in the middle of the solders. After arranging his hair a bit the man stepped forward.

“I am Buckle De Robert viscount and feudal lord of Rubierute, and this is Bosco Futran and Zetorasu Futran. Which one of you acts as your representative?”

“Oh, r-right! We are the adventure team 『Iron Fang』 I’m the leader Masco!!”

The man that was recounting the heroic tale before strutted out the reply with a clearly strained tone. The other members of the party were rigidly standing at attention.

“Are you the people that killed this giant basilisk?”

“……, Y-Yes!!”

Zetorasu question seemed to horrify the man, Masco remained silent for a moment before letting out that small affirmation.

“I heard that it was in the shallow part of the wind dragon forest. Is that correct?”

“Yes!! It was located in the forest near Rata village!”

Huh? Didn’t I leave the one I defeated in the forest near Rata village.

Is it possible, that the one I left unattended is the same one on the cart? However there was no evidence, and it’s not like I want to claim ownership of it anyway. In fact there were two giant basilisk. It could very well be the one that escaped.

“A little while ago, I saw two of them in the wind dragon forest……”

“What!? Is that true knight-sama?!”

The large man next to me let out a loud voice when he heard me muttering to myself. Naturally the loud voice caused everyone to immediately turn in this direction, and the surrounding people to move out of the way.

When Zetorasu noticed that the crowd parted by the loud voice, he eyebrow twitched a little as he challenge the statement.

“And you are?”

“No not me, Knight-sama’s unexpected commit caused me to speak……, it’s the truth!”

At the man’s words, Zetorasu looked at me directly. On my whole body I started to feel various gazes.

“No, I only said that I remember seeing two giant basilisks in the same place a few days ago.”

I couldn’t tell of the one here was the same one I killed or the one that got away, but…….

The information I spoke throw the square into a whirlpool of noise at once. The townspeople have been assured of both the reliability of the story and the impending danger.

“Huh?! Idiot, there were two of them! Was it by chance!? Why didn’t you report this to anyone!? Why did you remain quiet until now!?”

Zetorasu criticized me in a rough tone, and stared at me with angry eyes.

Even with such things said, I that was not familiar with their circumstances couldn’t judge the situation’s significance. I didn’t worry because an the time the other one ran deeper into the forest, so there was nothing to worry about.

“I saw the giant basilisks the first time. However from the distance I was at I couldn’t tell if they was a threat or not.”

In reality, it was the first time I had seen a real one. I encountered several of them in the game , and when I started hunting them I lost track of how many I saw.

At my answer Zetorasu closed his eyes, and his face gained a thoughtful expression. Are you thinking about what to do in the future?

Is he thinking that the two giant basilisk were trying to conceive children? In the game, it was arranged that basilisk evolved into giant basilisk. They were level 40-50 when they gained the use of poison spit, without that basilisk were featureless small fry.

“We have to return to the mansion to prepare a subjugation force!『Iron Fang』I request that you come with us. I want a few scouts to tag along with『Iron Fang』to carry out reconnaissance! By all means, please tell us how you were bravely able to slay the giant basilisk!!”

The people calm down at the declaration they heard. It was probably a performance used to clear away the unease of the people.

The victims of this whole event would have to be the members of『Iron Fang』. They couldn’t seem to form the words they wanted to say. It must be a time consuming task for adventures to gain fame, so this opportunity might seem like a godsend.

However, each member of 『Iron Fang』had a grim expression on their faces. It seems like the opportunity was a blessing they wanted to pass on somehow or other. I wasn’t invited to join these particular event. First of all, it’s better for me not to be involved with such troublesome things anyway.

With Zetorasu in the lead, the members of『Iron Fang』are lead to the feudal lord’s mansion.

If the feudal lords army appears the problem should be solved soon.

Since I don’t want to have contact with men in power, it’s better that I move to my own base before anymore problems come up. Thinking so, I turn away from the scene and head towards the west gate.

Based on a preliminary survey, there is a smaller town east of here, and apparently the largest neighboring city is called Diento. It was 3-4 days away by carriage.
Since my only luggage is on my back, lets head there.

But first a little peek at things over at Rata village一.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 11

Chapter 11

Translator: Silver Editor: Those that see what I miss

「Form of the City」 Part 1

I traveled the road by the sprite river upstream using【Dimensional step】. On the way there were a few small villages, that were surrounded by small-scale wooden walls. After a while I saw the town of Koruna which was a smaller version of Rubrierute. The city was surrounded by a stone wall. While watching my surroundings, I proceeded farther up the road.

The calcutta mountain range could be seen in the southwestern direction, as I arrived at main river the sprite river split from, the rydell river. The rydell river flows east of the calcutta mountains and seems to pass through the capital eventually. Farther downstream the river my destination, Diento, came into view.

A journey that would take a carriage 3 days, was completed in less than half a day with my travel method.

The city of Diento is located upstream from the spirit river before the river reconnects to rydell, the main river. The size of the city might be 3 times the size of Rubierute? The surrounding field was also vast in scale. In the distance, the mighty walls that protect the city can be seen. Furthermore, the wall are double layered, and had private houses in between them. Inside each wall was a moat that surrounded the houses. It almost appeared as if the city itself was a giant fortress.

As the city walls are dyed in color of the sunset, I gaze at the land unobstructed by anyone. If a city such as this were in modern times it would be registered in a world heritage site, as its beauty can capture the hearts of those who view it.

Rebooting my brain, I proceed to the entrance of Diento. The people that work in the fields around town are quickly making their way home. From here I make my way to the city on foot. The eye-catching instant transfer would stick out too much.

However, there was a good distance from here to the city. Maybe I should speed walk?

I began to speed walk with such force that my mantle began to flutter. The people in front of me screamed and made way when they noticed my footsteps. It was an easy pace to move at, but I think it was a little frightening for others.

A 2 meter tall man in full body armor moving at a fast pace……, It’s no wonder they scream……

Before long the city gate comes into view, so I returned to normal walking speed. If I approached the gate as I was before, I would no doubt be seen as a suspicious person. The walls were around 7 meters tall, and soldiers were acting as sentries on the wall. As I pass through the large gate, the second one came into view. The following gate is station right at the base of the hill. I climbed the gentle slope and arrived at the second city wall,

to enter the city I show my adventurer certification.

All of the building in the city seem to be made of stone. Three story buildings line the road, and the streets are crowded with people coming and going as they please. For the first time since I came to this world, I'm surrounded by the sound city life as street venders and barkeeps yell out to passersbies and people carry on about their business.

It feels a little nostalgic.

The layout of the streets seem complicated, and it might take some time to understand it all. When I entered a nearby bar, I found several people drinking to a good days work. I asked the uncle behind the bar for the location of a inn.

"Excuses me, I'm looking for an inn. Do you know a good place?"

"Our second and third floor act as an inn! How's 2 sek a night sound, sir?"

The bar owner recommended his own inn. I wonder, could I take a meal from the bar and eat it on in the room on the second floor?

"Can you take meals in the rooms?"

"I do not mind. Ah! Just make sure you return the tray when you're done eating. One meal is 3 sok, each time!"

I give the uncle 2 silver and three copper coins, and he immediately starts to put together a meal tray. With tray in hand, I climb up the stairs to my appointed room. I unlocked the room door on the third floor, and discovered that the rooms atmosphere was better then the inn I used to stay at. The bed was sturdy, and the blankets were well made. There was a small table with not only chairs but a foot stool as well.

Seating in one of the chairs, I set the meal down and removed my helmet.

It's my first proper meal in a long time. It simply consented of soup, salad, and a black piece of bread, all served on a wooden tray. Meat doesn't seem to be available. The black bread tasted the same as the bread I had before. But it was edible when I dipped it into the soup to soften it up. It was a bean soup that had been cooked in chicken broth. Quite delicious. As for the salad, it was two types of vegetables sprinkled with vinegar and salt. Was it lettuce and endives? No, it's doubtful that they would put such similar vegetables together.

After putting my helmet back on, I take the tableware to the first floor. The uncle looked at me strangely when I returned the tableware. It maybe strange for an armored guest to return the tableware still in has armor, after eating the meal in his room. Nothing in particular was said thought.

When I returned to the room, I set with my back against the wall and fell asleep as I usually did. The blanket remained on the bed, since there was no reason to place it over my armor.

Early next morning, the sound of a bell is heard from somewhere. Awakened by the sound, I go down to the first floor where the bar uncle was working on something in the kitchen. Unlike the before, this place isn't unmanned in the morning.

I place the room key on the counter and call out to the uncle in the kitchen before leaving.

After a little asking around, I arrived at this city's adventurer guild's building. The building was three stories high, but the structure wasn't that different from the other guild building. But there were more employees behind the counter. Thought none of them were like a caged bear. There were a large number of adventures in front of the quest board. The staff and adventures were all male, it might be possible that there weren't many female adventures.

I at least thought they would hire good-looking women to be receptionists……

In front of the request board, I catch a conversation between two adventures while I was looking at request plaques.

"A five man party from my corps went hunting four days ago and haven't been heard from since."

"Could they have been gotten by bandits or monsters? This place is close to the elf forest after all. The monsters there are usually quite strong right?"

"No, they should have been heading to the base of the calcutta mountain range near the capital……"

In this world, the outside of cities are full of dangers. Life and death are uncertain the farther you went out of town.

Nevertheless, coming here has finally given me conformation of the the elf race. I have yet to see any non-humans in the cities. After all, elves live in the forest, a place that would be outside the range on human survivability.

Since I'm in another world I'd like a glimpse at what it has to offer. That thought crossed my mind after confirming the contents of the request plaques. Due to the larger population there were more request, but they were still mostly chores. It seems like I can't find good work unless I join a adventurers corps.

It seems that I'll hunt something in the forest today and sell it. I consider the adventurers' corps as I leave.

A near by vender was selling dried fruit and I decided to buy some. Since it looks like a strawberry, lets call it that. The guy said the the wild strawberries grow in the west. The vender scooped up some of then in a cup, after I handed him 8 copper coins. It seems that the berries were only available half a year, and wouldn't last half a day fresh ether. I tossed them into a small bag and placed them in my sack.

While heading for the gate, I make sure to listen in on the people around me.
Before long I reach the south gate of the inner wall. Showing my certification to the gate guard, I was let out of the gates.

The stone bridge was about 300 meters long and had six beautiful arches that stretched from end to end. Could the width of the bridge hold three carriages? There were a lot of people coming and going, most of them entering and leaving a carriage. This might be a transportation hub.

After crossing the bridge, the calcutta mountain range could be seen on my right and the the entrance to the forest in front of me. On the left side was a grazing field, as animals are

relaxing behind a fence on that side. There were cows, sheep, and even horses. There was also another field spread out too. The rydell river flow into the forest upstream, but the river was quite open.

It was impossible for me to hunt near the the base of the calcutta mountains because of the large crowd around that area. I turn off the highway, and start moving in the southwest direction. I lost sight of the rydell river as I carried on.

The density of the surrounding trees grows to the point were sunlight was blocked out, making it difficult to see. Unlike the forest at the foot of the wild dragon mountain range, the thickness of each tree wasn't much, but there was only a narrow amount of space between them. I wouldn't be able to swing my two-handed sword here. No, I could swing it, but I would cut down all the trees around me. In such a place, it might be difficult to catch anything without any traps set up.

I've been seeing small animals for a while now, but they would always disappear into the thicket.

With the tree so tightly packed, it would be difficult to use【Dimensional step】here. I aimlessly wandered around the forest for an hour before I noticed signs of 5 other things heading in my direction. I thought they might be wolves or something because they spread out to surround me as they approached.

However, what emerged was a group of five thieves, that each had a vulgar smile on their face. Their hair was unwashed, they had stubble on their faces, and each carried a dagger in hand.

"Oh, where are you going? Knight-sama, hehehe."

"Tell you what, you can keep you life, if you're willing to give up everything your wearing? A cheap price, isn't it? Hahaha."

"To spot a lone knight in the depths of the forest, our luck must be really good! Hahaha"

So they mocked. They seem to have become careless due to their supposed geological advantage. The eyes of the thieves are clouded with greed, as they appraise me from head-to-toe.

Even if you think I can't draw my sword, it is still too early to become careless. I used【Dimensional step】to instantly transfer behind the closet thief. Gathering power into my fist, in an instant my punch pulverized the head of the thief. A "paan" sound is heard as bits and pieces of the head flew everywhere, and the thief's body collapsed. It seems I put too much power behind it. I didn't think making the head vanish was possible.

It's like looking at a slow motion video, as the faces of the thieves twist in astonishment. I take the opportunity to hammer my fist into the chins of the two closest by. The jaws of the two were sent flying. Blood spouted from the eyes, ears, and the remains of their mouths, as they sunk onto the ground.

"Mon-Monsterrrrr!!!!!!!!!!"

"Th-That's not humannn!!!"

The thief that was a little far away showed his back to me. From my position, I

cast【Rock Bullet】, and a rock the size of a fist went straight through the fleeing thief's back. Although a basic spell of a mage, the power was pretty good. The was a large hole in the leather armor the thief was wearing.

That was the fourth one. Thinking so, I looked around my surrounding and spotted the last one swaying between the trees as he fled.

In this dense forest, I couldn't use【Dimensional step】to catch the thief, that was skillfully dodging trees like a monkey. I had to rely on my physical ability to chase after him.

Even as I push the thicket aside, the thief, who knew this area well, steadily increased his distance by avoiding the trees. To try and close the distance, I started to run in a more open space, when my foot was ensnared by something. I'm taken on a ride, as my foot ,ensnared by a rope, is hoisted into the air by the momentum of a falling rock.

"Ha! You're a real idiot to fall for such a simple trap!!"

The fleeing thief stopped running and looked back at me, with a proud look on his face. However the force of gravity on the fallen rock suddenly reverses as the rope snips and flies off in the direction of the of the rising sun. The rope snipped do to me forcibly pulling my ensnared leg.

When I started to run again, another trap was activated. This time it was a wall of spears meant to skewer the prey that activated it. I tackle the wall head on causing the spears to shatter upon contact. Next, a log stake comes flying at me. With one powerful punch, the log explodes and wood chips scatter everywhere, even the connecting ropes have been shredded.

The traps seem to have been placed in the more open areas beforehand. Since its like this, I just have to run through the thicker areas with greater force.

"Hyaaaaaaaaaaa!!! Mon-monsterrrrrr!!"

Seeing me breakthrough all the traps with sheer force caused the thief to run away screaming again. Although his was disturbed, he still slipped between the trees quite nicely.

I chase fiercely from behind. Like a tank I rush straight on, if a tree or rock is in the way it was crushed under the force of my charge.

"Hahaha, where will you go?"

"Ahhhhhhhhhhh!!!"

A strange tension built up as I chased the thief, and a line like an army colonel slipped out of my mouth. The smell of ammonia entered the air, as the crotch of the fleeing thief became wet. He seemed to have pissed himself in fear, but he continued to skillfully flee.

Before long, a cliff around 7-8 meters tall appeared as we cleared the thicket. There was something like a cave in the cliff side, and it was surrounded by a fence to keep out animals.

The cave was apparently the thieves den, but the two guards out front only had vacant expressions.

The man who pissed himself frantically ran towards the lookouts. The lookout were confused by his appearance and had a momentary lapse in judgement. Taking the opportunity, I used【Dimensional step】to approach the men and draw my sword. In an instant the three men were cut down in one stroke. It's easy to catch up in such an open place.

The 3 bodies were cut diagonally, and that cause blood to dyed the area red and the smell of iron to enter the air.

All of a sudden, voices and footsteps can be heard from within the cave, and they were heading in this direction. Throwing my sack down near the entrance, I grab my sword in both hands and wait for the remaining bandits. I must have come to this world to act as society's cleaner.

Eventually a well-built bald-headed man came out of the cave carrying an axe.

"Huh! Who the hell are you, bastard!!!"

The bald-headed man sees the sight at the cave entrance and yelled that remark before making a leaping swing with his axe. In that short instant, I covered the distance and thrust my sword into the man's torso with all my might. Without feeling any resistance, the sword penetrates the stomach and cleaves through the abdomen.

With his body split in two, the bald-headed man grumbles on about some new type of monster, while falling to the ground.

The other thieves watched from behind in a state of shock. When I stepped over the entrails of the object that hit the ground, the others began to brandish their weapons in a state of panic.

I dodged their attacks effortlessly, and cut them down one by one with a single stroke of my sword. Only three people remained near the entrance of the cave, and do to the size only two people could use weapons freely.

As the last of the thieves sink into the pool of blood, the vicinity became quiet.
More then a dozen bodies were in the cave. A cool wind blows through the area and shakes the leaves, as the scent of blood is carried away. When I swung my sword again, fat droplets of blood flow off, allowing the mysterious blue light to shine through.

I continued to advance into the depths of the cave.

The cave wasn't that big, as I hit a dead end after only traveling 100 meters down the left path. The inner parts of the cave became more like a hall, as there were still lamps lit and signs of people sleeping here.

Among the general goods, I found a wooden strong box. The atmosphere and appearance made it look like a treasure chest.

A considerable amount of gold coins, that the thieves had been saving, was within the chest. If I mixed in the gold coins in my pouch, the amount would probably exceed 500 pieces. They were the size of a 1-yen coin, but they weighted the same as a 500-yen coin. It's quite a lot of weight since there were more than 500 of these coins.

There were also a lot of weapons left behind, so for the time being lets just collect the

outstanding ones.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 12

Chapter 12

Translator: Silver Editor: Those who shall taste despair

「Form of the City」 Part 2

I retrieved my luggage sack from the cave's entrance to throw the weapons and gold coins into it.

Suddenly, a small iron cage in the corner of the cave catches my attention. It remained in the shadows beyond the lamps light, so it went unnoticed till now. When I look inside the cage, I saw a wounded animal glaring back at me.

I brought a lamp over so I clearly make out the animal in the cage. There was a fox inside the cage. No, it was a fox like animal.

From head-to-tail it was around 60 cm, and the tail had the appearance of a dandelion and made up half of its body length. The fox's head had large triangular ears that were pointed up, indicating the it was alert and listening out. There was something like a film on it legs, that left the impression of a flying squirrel.

Under the lamps light, I could see that pale green fur cover its back while the fur on its belly was white.

Without removing its eyes, the creature in the cage let out a quiet growl and blistered its big fluffy tail. The forepaws showed shallow scratches, and the fur around the hind legs were dyed red.

In order to cast healing magic on its wounds, I opened the cage's hatch. However, the pale green fox was cautious, as it showed no sign of leaving the cage. Getting nowhere like this, I extend my hand to the fox inside the cage.

"Gyau!"

The fox let out a small bark before biting at my fingers. I felt no pain thanks to the armor, but I groan a little as the green fox showed no sign of releasing my fingers.

"You know, I'm not that scary……"

While saying the lines of the girl of the valley of the wind, I began to pull the hand, being bitten out of the cage, the green fox coming with it. I don't seem to have a power to calm down animals……

"【Heal】"

When the recovery magic is cast, lights start to emit from my fingers being bitten and seep into the fox's wounds. The basic skill of the priest class. The green fox was surprised by this event, and its fluffy tail spread out as it jumped back. Its big eyes blinked rapidly.

"Kyun?"

It curiously inclined its head to the side before looking back at its previously injured hind

leg, and licking the spot were the wound should be. Just like a cat, it then began to lick its forepaws. With its grooming completed, the fox sat down on the spot and stated to wag that fluffy tail back and forth.

It didn't show any signs of running away.

I remembered something I had in my bag. When I took out the dried berries I bought this morning, the green fox's nosed twitched a little before it went motionless. While laughing at the situation, I place a berry on my hand and held it out.

At first it was cautious, but it slowly approached my hand with the berry in it. With a dash the fox took the berry, before retreating back, and started to munch on it at a distance. When it finished eating the berry, it started to tip-toe my way for an other one. After a few more round trip, it just started to eat the berries out of my hand.

Its wariness from a while ago seems to have completely vanished, but I wonder if its all right to treat wildlife like this.

When all the berries are eaten, I started to stroke the head of the green fox, with a wry smile. The little guy seemed to be ticklish as it started to let out small pleasant cries.

Since there was nothing valuable left here, I stood up ready to leave. But as I leave the cave, the little fox came running behind me as fast as its legs allowed. When I stopped walking and turned around, the fox was sitting down waging its fluffy tail.

"Do you want to come with me?"

I didn't expect an answer, but the green fox let out a "Kyun" sound in response. It was totally showing that it could understand me.

I don't know the name of the fox like creature, but I couldn't bear to simple call it green fox. I rack my brain trying to come up with a name of it.

── Green Fox……

"Oage or Tempuro, sound good?"

When I suggested the names, the fluffy tail appeared to droop. You don't seem to like either of them……

── Green fox……

"Ponta, then."

"Kyun!"

The tail now stood erect and was now swaying.

"Then Ponta, ready to go?"

Ponta let out a yep and started to jump in place, when I asked the question. All of a sudden, wind surrounded Ponta, and after expanding its fur, Ponta started to rise like it was in a invisible elevator.

"Ooooh!?"

I let out a surprised yell, as my eyes became glued to Ponta. It could apparently use wind

magic. Otherwise it was impossible for such a rising current to be localized in a cave. Ponta rode the wind all the way until it was high enough to jump on my helmet. Because Ponta was facing me on the way up, its fluffy tail was now blocking my sight. When I tried to move the tail, Ponta rearranged itself so that my field of vision cleared.

I couldn't deny that this was a fantasy creature, it used magic to fly up there after all…… In my former world, arboreal animals, like the flying squirrel, were only capable of gliding because of how their bodies were built.

I try to calm my excitement, as I hoist my luggage sack over my shoulder and leave the cave.

The remains of the thieves are scatted near the entrance. Since it would be troublesome if this attracted something weird, I used 【Flame】 to burn them all away. At first Ponta was surprised by the flames, but after a while it returned to waging its tail on top of my helmet.

I only leave the thieves' den when I'm sure that there was nothing left but ashes.

Because I collected so many war trophies, even if I don't work for a while I should be just fine.

I silently transferred and walked, until I reached the entrance of the forest.

The leaves of the tree were not covering it, so I could see that that red has already entered the sky. A good amount of time seems to have passed since I entered the forest. I could see the Diento's city walls in the distance, and the farmland was already empty.

After walking up stream the rydell river for a while, I came across a person standing with their back to me.

They wore a beige cloak, and strands of greenish gold hair escaped from under the hood and fluttered in the wind. The physique is like a human, but a feature different from other humans can be seen. The long pointy ears, clearly visible from this angle, is a racial characteristic often seen in stories and the game.

"This is my first time seeing a Elf."

A little excited, I used【Dimensional step】to appear behind the elf, and I wound up speaking unintentionally.

The elf jumped away from me when I did this, unsheathing a slender sword in the process, and glared back at me with a sword in hand and a scowl on their face.

The greenish gold hair could not be compared to the sharp green eyes that observed me. The body was on the slender side, but was wrapped in firm light armor. The guard-less sword pointed in my direction was also steady in his hand. The demeanor and atmosphere were totally different from the thieves from earlier. With a single glance I understood that a great warrior was before me.

"Who are you?"

The elf was immediately alert and had fallen into a fighting stance. Their voice was a little low, but it was clear that the person was trying to create some openings. However, the eyes of the man seem to be fixed on one point. Their line of sight was focused on Ponta, who was on the top of my head……?

I had questions for the man, but I should responded first.

“Arc. A traveler. I unintentionally called out because this is the first time I’ve seen an elf.”

There was still doubt in their eyes, but the swords point was lowered a little.

“…… A human being? A vento vulpix became attached to a human……”

“? Vento?”

“…… Its common name is fluffy fox. Its the sprite beast sitting on your head…… They typically live in packs, how’d you tame it?”

“Wow, its a spirit? Ponta is”

On my head, Ponta let out a strange cry, yet remained stuck on there. The elf looked at the absurd situation with amazement.

“It’s not a spirit, it’s a spirit beast. Think of it as an animal that possess the power of an elemental spirit. Is such a thing unknown? Is the inside of that magnificent armor empty?”

I was called a fool by this man, but that can’t be helped. Do to my circumstances, there is no way that I would know the ecosystem.

But this armor is not empty, it’s full of bones──.

“I’m sorry. This is the first spirit beast I’ve seen. I found it after it was caught and injured by thieves, and freed it. It became emotionally attached after I healed it and feed it a little……”

“Bullshit, even a common spirit beast’s wariness is so high that they won’t take to members of the elf race. Are you saying that there are oddballs everywhere?……”

The man said so as he sheathed his sword, and covered it and his elf ears with his cloak. An oddball, I have a feeling he was looking down on me when he said that, but that can’t be the case right?

“So, what are you doing in such a place? I haven’t seen any elves in the city, 〜are you heading there now?”

The cloaked elf let out an amazed sigh.

“Are you truly a human? Humans are people who hate and fear those different or better than themselves. We elves live long lives and generally have high magical capabilities. Even though we signed a treaty with the Rhoden kingdom, I would become a target for hunting if the public noticed me. The forest people seem to sell for a exaggerated amount of gold.”

The eyes under the hood were filled with anger and hatred.

Officially it might be illegal to hunt elves in this country. However, it seems that the prohibition was not being enforced properly. You only need to look into his eyes to image want horrors he has seen.

Even if you call it hunting, it didn’t mean killing. The elves wouldn’t have needed to enter into such a barbaric treaty, that prohibited the act by feudal law, if there were not people willing to pay a lot of money to subdue them. There’s probably a rumor that elf blood can

cure all sickness, or they are probably traded as slaves…… Then the reason this guy is near the city is──

“The liberation of elven slaves from the city──”

When I muttered so, the elf had a dangerous and cautious look in his eyes.

“Hmm, I’m not saying anything to a human. I was to meet with a group of elves here……”

While shrugging his shoulders and letting out a sign, the anxious situation was denied.

“Can you even trust the words of a human──”

“Kyun Kyun!”

The hardening of the elf’s voice and his attempt to reach for his sword, caused Ponta to let out a sharp cry.

When the elf saw this, he stopped and removed his hand from his sword.

“Shit. Some say that a person bound to a spirit beast are connected by their hearts. Don’t forget the words I spoke a while ago.”

Saying so, the man walked into the forest at a fast pace, and I eventually lost sight of him.

In the end, I didn’t even hear the elf’s name──.

I though it was my chance to interact with other species in a different world, but the negative evaluation of humans made that quite difficult.

Well, I hope we came meet again. Since elves are being imprisoned in the city, I will collect information for him should we meet again.

Thinking that, I once again started to walk in the direction of the city,

The city walls were illuminated by the sunset like yesterday. However unlike yesterday, the walls looked like a screen that covered up peoples’ greed.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 13

Chapter 13

Translator: Silver Editor: Kaio

「Just Passing By」 Part 1

Past the vast forest that was located east of Diento, the first rays of the sun illuminated the city walls. Signs of activity could be noticed as the city quietly awakened.

At the heart of Diento was a castle owned by the Marquis. Inside, an elderly man was holding his head in his hands.

With white hair that reached his back along with a white mustache on his face, the master of the castle was this stout man, Marquis Triton of Diento.

“Why is it that..? Didn’t the report say that two giant basilisks appeared near Rubierute? Shouldn’t the presence of such monsters have thrown the territory into considerable disorder?”

The reason Triton’s head was bowed was due to the report that his spy in Rubierute had delivered this morning.

In the report, one of the two basilisks had apparently been subdued by a group of adventurers. After that, said adventurers teamed up with one hundred and fifty soldiers to subdue the second one. However, the five-man adventurer party and the soldiers sent as scouts were said to have suffered heavy losses when they attempted to overcome the second basilisk. The main force, on the other hand, received only minor casualties.

“Well, Messenger-dono from the East said that the technique was still quite experimental, and that I shouldn’t expect much from the hands of the monster tamers… Although, for one of them to have been defeated by a random group of adventurers, I must be cursed with terrible luck. If the soldiers had to deal with the two basilisks simultaneously, then more than twice the number of people would’ve fallen; a good amount of damage would’ve been dealt.”

As Triton said this, a man with a pale face who seemed to be nervous let out a sigh. His hands moved to smooth his hair, hiding the parts of his head where the hair was thin.

He was the Consul of Diento, Cyrus Dorman.

“There’s no way for them to have had thirty shields made from mythril, which possesses a high level of magic resistance…” Triton muttered resentfully.

“As for this report, concerning the bait for the capture of the “commodity’’ set by our liaison in town…It seems that the bait wasn’t taken, nor were they even able to meet with the other party. While the amount is fine for now, they are also running low on the bait. If no other measure is immediately taken, without a person skilled in capturing spirit beasts, it will be difficult to capture them.”

Upon hearing the report, Triton face became even more bitter. The number of things that

hadn’t been going well recently had only increased, and the built-up frustration caused him to angrily pull at his hair.

“Damn it! The next one! Their base should be in the forest at the base of the Calcutta mountain range. Have they contacted us yet?!”

“The forest extends a great distance from north to south, so to determine the exact location of their base is a bit… And since it’s difficult for a large subjugation unit to go through the area, it’s unlikely for them to have been subdued. However, if a powerful monster were to come down from the mountains… it would be difficult to speculate what would happen.”

“Contact the liaison again and tell him that we will be changing clients if the bait isn’t stocked up! The act of capturing spirit beasts in and of itself isn’t even against the law!! Cyrus, look for a new trading partner to secure more bait!”

“Is it alright? Isn’t there a chance that they might threaten to expose our deeds to the Capital by passing the information through the peddlers?”

Cyrus had an anxious look on his face as he protested, but Triton seemed to think that having a band or two of bandits threatening him would be nothing more than a small annoyance.

He even crudely refuted it.

“Hmph! When it comes to trash of such level as bandits, you simply have to overwhelm them with military might!! Not to mention the fact that crushing them would really generate some good publicity. Hahaha.”

Triton’s belly shook disgustingly as he laughed, and Cyrus took that as his signal to leave and quietly exited the room.

At the sound of the morning bell, I woke up on a bed inside the inn.

Ponta had her head buried under the blanket, leaving only the sight of her fluffy green and white tail. Sometimes, while moving her mouth, she would let out a small squeal from the depths of her throat, as if she was eating something delicious in her dreams.

Although she had the appearance of an omnivorous fox, she prefered eating nuts and berries over meat.

I woke Ponta by scratching behind her ear, leading to one of her hind legs kicking out. Her jaws opened wide and let out a big yawn. With a jump, she leapt from my shoulder to her usual spot on top of my head. This fluffy fox seemed to like high places.

While Ponta was riding on my head, I draped a large black cloak over my armor. I bought it yesterday when I saw it at a street vendor’s stand. While it would also conveniently cover my showy armor, I bought it primarily because it’s quite suitable for covert operations.

However, while the flashiness of the armor may be covered up, the black cloak paired with the helmet made for a strange combination. If viewed from the side, I imagine that I could pass for a certain person named Vader.

Although I would no longer have people staring at me due to my luxurious armor, I think I would end up attracting attention for another reason entirely.

I called out to the uncle cooking in the kitchen behind the bar as I left. Since this place only served food at night, it's necessary for me to get breakfast from the street stalls.

There were many street vendors in town, with each one soliciting potential customers in a lively manner. While I was walking, my vision was suddenly covered by a fluffy tail.

Did Ponta find something of concern? This seemed to happen whenever I pass something that she wanted. Ponta's eyes would become locked towards a certain direction, and my vision would be filled with only her tail.

I adjusted Ponta back to her proper position on my head before heading in the direction of the stall that caught her interest. It seemed that the stall sold her favorite kind of nuts. The husks were a light brown color, and between the cracks, green nuts could be seen. They looked like pistachios.

"Kyun!"

She seemed to be pleading for me to buy some. I handed five copper coins over to the saleslady and and received a small sack of nuts in return. I peeled the shells off and fed Ponta two or three nut at a time, resulting in her squealing happily as she chewed on them. The shells from the eaten nuts fell to the ground, only to be crushed under my feet as I walked by.

For the past few days, I'd been strolling around the city with Ponta on top of my head.

I checked all over town, but I had yet to find any information about the enslaved elves implied by that male elf. In all honesty, since I had no idea where the elves could be and since I couldn't simply ask around about it, we'd just been aimlessly wandering around the town…

In addition, since the imprisonment and sale of elves was illegal, in order to engage in this lucrative business, both the vendor and the customers must possess quite the amount of power behind them.

If that's the case, rather than the general area of the town, the nobles' district located near the feudal lord's mansion seemed most suspicious. It had a large number of guards with very little pedestrian traffic, making it hard for a person to sneak around there.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not compelled by any sense of justice in particular. Although it might be imprudent of me, the truth was that I was simply killing some spare time. Without any sort of purpose, I would've likely shut myself up inside my room at the inn and simply played with Ponta all day.

Anyway, I hadn't even particularly thought about what I'd do if I had found the captured elves. Since I was trying to be inconspicuous, I think I would secretly help if there's a chance for me to do so.

When I thought about how the elves of this world were being unjustly persecuted, I was left with an indescribable feeling.

Though I had yet to see one, do beast people also exist in this world? Judging from the tone of that elf, if they did, then they might be persecuted in a similar fashion as the elves…

While having such thoughts, before I knew it, I found myself in front of the Adventurer's Guild. Though it had only been a few days, it felt like a lot of time had passed.

Aimlessly walking around the city any further probably won't provide great results. I entered the building, thinking I could try looking over the request board after my long absence.

Several adventurers were scattered around choosing their own request from the board. I went up to it as well and looked around for any interesting requests.

All of a sudden, something caught my eye. A search for missing people.

The contents were as follow: Find the group of people who did not return after going into forest upstream from the Rydell River. It has already been five days after the time they were supposed to return.

The forest, which stretched from the base of the Wind Dragon Mountain Range to the Rydell River, was commonly known as the Wind Dragon Forest. The forest around Rata village was also part of the Wind Dragon Forest. The forest that surrounded the northeastern base of the mountain range seemed to be vast in scale as well.

However, on the other side of the Rydell River, the name of the forest was changed, even though they both shared the same mountain range. Names such as ”Forest of the Elves” or “Lost Forest” were given. People have said that, past the river, a vast forest was spread.

There were rumors of a strong monster that ran rampant inside the forest. A number of elves were also said to have been living there.

However, I currently had no intention of taking up the request.

It was a request that doesn't reward you unless you brought back the missing parties or proof of their death. This is the type of task that would be put in the back of people's minds once they found another request. I heard that experienced adventurers would teach the rookies regarding the potential gains of a request using examples such as this.

Nevertheless, I could take this opportunity to carefully map out the river upstream.

I left the guild, and made my way to the eastern gate, which was facing the direction of the Wind Dragon Forest. Unlike the southern and northern gates that had caravans regularly passing through them, this gate was much smaller in comparison: It had only about the width of one carriage. Furthermore, the eastern gate was on the outskirts of the city's red-light district. Not only were the roads narrow, but they were also filled with strange shops and suspicious alleyways. While there weren't a lot of pedestrians during the day, after the sun had set, the streets would be crowded with women attempting to bring men into their stores.

Because I wanted to avoid troublesome things, I decided to keep away from this part of the city at night. Moreover, with my body the way it was now, even if I visited one of the shops, it would be pointless…

I left through the eastern gate, walked over the two wooden bridges, and made my way upstream on the right side of the Rydell River. To the east was the Wind Dragon Forest that stretched on for twenty kilometers. However, with【Dimensional step】, I could

cover that distance in less than five minutes.

When I entered the forest, Ponta started to wag her tail happily. Was the light-green fur a trait developed to live in the forest, after all? If there was a group of fluffy foxes in this forest, maybe Ponta would want to return to them. I ventured deeper into the forest feeling a little lonely at the thought.

The inside of the forest wasn't very dark; I was able to see pretty well, but the tall undergrowth made each footstep difficult to discern. To my right was a sheer cliff, and underneath it was the Rydell River. The sound of the water flowing echoed in the forest. Combined with the singing of the birds and the rustling of the leaves from the wind, it made for an amazingly tranquil atmosphere. The fear of monsters meant that few people ever got to experience such a place.

I continued my hike upstream while enjoying the patches of sunlight filtered through the foliage and the sound of the water. Suddenly, a patch of brown fur appeared in the tall grass.

"Kyu~n…"

Ponta let out a miserable cry as she moved from my head to hide at the nape of my neck. From the side, it looked like I was some auntie wearing a mink scarf.

The fur patch, which was about the size of a large bear, began to move. The sound of something crunching resounded throughout the area. When I noticed this, the brown bear stood up on its hind legs.

But the bear that stood up was vastly different compared to the bears that I knew of.

While its body was that of a bear, it had the head of a wolf. Furthermore, it had long straight ears like those of a donkey. While its ears twitched, the beast glared at me. The mouth that was dripping with blood let out a vicious roar. Was it angry that its meal was disturbed?

A cool metallic sound rang out as I unsheathed my sword. The wolf-headed bear glared at me while measuring the distance between us, and slowly approached.

Victory goes to the one who makes the first move!

I transferred beside the monster with 【Dimensional step】and quickly stabbed my sword into its abdomen from the side. Then, I instantly changed to another location. There was no need to use any other skills at this point, as I had already delivered a fatal blow.

"GAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!"

The combination of losing sight of its prey and the sharp pain it felt caused the beast to frantically swing its fore-paws in a reckless manner. However, more blood flowed from the stab wound in its abdomen with every move it made during its rampage. While standing at a safe distance from the wolf-headed bear, I waited for the creature to weaken on its own.

About ten minutes later, the creature fell onto the ground and began to gasp for air. Though it was still breathing, it had already ceased to be any sort of threat.

Ignoring the wolf-headed bear, I headed towards the place that caught my attention. It was

a small clearing, the place where the creature was having its meal.

Although it was damaged considerably with several bite marks along with various bones that had been crunched, I recognized it immediately.

It was a human being.

However, this lump of flesh, which was once a human, didn't have any of the items necessary for proper identification. While I examined the nearby thicket, Ponta, who had recovered from the encounter with the wolf-headed bear, let out a cry from her usual position.

"Kyuun!"

When I searched the bush that caught Ponta's attention, I found a human head. The damage wasn't particularly bad; it was still possible to make out the general facial features. However, it was impossible to tell if this was the one of the missing people mentioned in the request.

I also didn't want to carry this severed head back with me. While I could describe the face to the people at the Adventurer's Guild, they would probably ask to see it themselves for verification.

All of a sudden, I noticed something weird. The place where the neck was severed was very clean. That wouldn't be the case if this person was attacked by wild animals. Or perhaps, out there, a monster capable of making such clean cuts existed?

Could it be that the missing group was attacked and killed by bandits? In fact, as there weren't any weapons or even any luggage around the dead body, I felt the possibility of that was quite high. No one in their right mind would enter a dangerous forest empty-handed, after all.

That being said, could their hideout be nearby?

When I observed my surroundings, I saw bloodstains near a patch of undergrowth inside the clearing. Although the blood had already hardened into a discolored black, I decided to let it guide me deeper into the forest.

The trail led me to the banks of the Rydell River. It continued past the rocks and gravel near the river edge before stopping. This part of the river was more upstream, but it was comparatively much wider. As a result, it was also shallower. It seemed that this person managed to escape by crossing from the other side of the river.

The forest on the other side belonged to the elves. Were they responsible for the disappearances? However, it was unlikely that the elves would be living in the immediate vicinity of the river. It was too close to where people would enter and leave the forest. Although it would be difficult to find elves here, considering that it's the outskirts of a forest that few people were willing to enter, it could make for a suitable hideout for the bandits.

"Hmm, are you up for a bit of scouting, Ponta?"

"Kyun!"

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 14

Chapter 14

Translator: Silver　Editor: Kaio

「Just Passing By」 Part 2

When I called out to Ponta who was quenching her thirst by the riverside, she made her way towards me while barking cheerfully. While I waited with one of my knees slightly out, she used it to leap up to my shoulder before finally settling herself in her usual position on top of my head. I took out and peeled some of the pistachios from my bag, resulting in her happily wagging her tail.

After walking through the shallow section of the river, I entered the forest on the opposite shore.

From this point forward, I was in the domain of the elves. However, the atmosphere in the forest was anything but somber. Rather, with the sunlight filtering through the treetops, it felt quite pleasant.

However, there were no bloodstains on this side.

Instead, there were signs that someone had tread upon this area. Was it possible that person was wounded during the crossing of the river, resulting in the blood only appearing on the opposite shore?

This might mean that the supposed bandits considered this area to be dangerous.

If that’s the case, then even if I carefully searched this area, it would be unreasonable for me to be able to find any additional signs to pursue. It seemed that I could only steadily search on foot.

Since time wasn’t really an issue, I leisurely walked through the forest with Ponta. Occasionally, a certain type of nut would catch her eye; after using wind magic to retrieve them from the tree, she would enjoy them on top of my head.

Before long, the light of the sun began to to fade away, gradually dyeing the forest a crimson red. It was at this time that we found ourselves before what appeared to be a mountain trail. The width was at most able to accommodate a single carriage. The undergrowth was cut to the extent where it could barely be considered as a road.

The road extended to the northeast and the southwest direction.

Since it was already getting dark, I headed in the southwestern direction, towards where the forest’s exit might be. From my head, Ponta’s sleepy yawns could periodically be heard.

Farther down the path, I heard the sound of weapons clashing with one another.

I left the trail, moving quietly through the thickets as I approached the source of the noises. There was a wagon with a small group of people next to it, their weapons drawn and their faces covered with menacing looks.

The people surrounding the wagon had the same discreetly colored cloak, their weapons and shields raised in formation in order to protect it. They were clearly exceedingly different compared to a normal gang of bandits with mismatched equipment.

The wagon parked a little ways behind them was covered with a cloth canvas, hiding its contents. However, I felt signs of life in the interior of the carriage; there must be people hidden inside.

A slim man beside the wagon drew his sword, but unlike the guards in front of him, the sword trembled in his hands as he pulled it from his waist.

The corpses of three men covered with arrows surrounded the wagon. They seemed to be victims of a surprise attack.

Among the men with increased fervor near the front, a man who had a good build let out a pained moan before he fell to the ground. As he fell, I caught sight of the assailant’s figure retracting her sword before vigilantly observing her surroundings.

From one glance at the beautiful woman who stood there while wielding a slender sword, it was clear that she wasn’t human.

Her lilac colored skin was crystal smooth; her long hair white as snow. Her pointed ears complemented her sharp eyes, which glowed with a strange gold in the darkening forest. Compared to the elf I had previously seen, her ears were also shorter.

She was dressed in a long-sleeved dress with a modest length hem that allowed for great maneuverability. A leather corset served as protective gear, while a grey cloak fluttered in the wind behind her.

Her demeanor was reminiscent of a veteran warrior.

However, a stunning feminine charm radiated from the body wrapped in plain clothing. The fabric at her chest threatened to burst open at any moment under the pressure from their overwhelming mass. Underneath, a narrow waist accentuated her graceful legs and toned buttocks.

If one was able to deprive their eyes of her beautiful figure for even a little while, then they would be able to notice the flashing silver sword in her hand that fiercely struck out, felling one hefty men after another.

Occasionally, there were men who tried to surround her, but they would retreat after receiving the arrows shot from a position farther behind her.

While using the thick branches of the large tree as a foothold, and the trunk as a substitute shield, the archer, who had the same features as the person I saw near Diento, continually fired arrows.

With emerald-tinted blonde hair, jade-colored eyes, and long, pointed ears along with a slender build, he was undoubtedly an elf. However, this elf appeared to be a different person from the one I saw near the city.

The two attacked a group that numbered about twenty. They were skilled enough in battle that they easily overcame the number disadvantage. As Ponta and I quietly observed from a bush, wondering whether, after a few minutes, the battle would conclude, I heard a man swear near the back of the group. Then, he started running towards the wagon.

After the man tore off the canvas covering the wagon, he pointed his sword towards one of the attackers while screaming at her.

“Woman!! Surrender obediently!! Otherwise, I’ll cover their bodies with holes!!! That elf back there, too!!”

With bulging veins and saliva spraying out of his mouth, the man shouted.

His sword was directed towards the iron cage inside the wagon where four children were locked up. With golden hair, emerald eyes, and long ears, they were all elves.

The children, probably fearful of the sword pointed at them, let out muffled sobs through their gags. At the same time, more tears gathered at the corners of their eyes.

When the woman stopped her sword in consideration of the threat, the men around her let out sighs of relief. Simultaneously, they began to gradually shrink their encirclement.

“Damn─! The shameless humans!!! …Instead of submitting to you and enduring the humiliation for the rest of our lives, the people of the forest would rather die proudly!!!”

Along with her yells, the tip of the sword rose back up. A more intense hatred and anger gleamed from her eyes. The pressure from the dark aura now surrounding her caused the approaching men to hesitate.

The elf situated on the tree pondered on what he should do and didn’t raise his bow. In this situation, it was obvious that some of the elven hostages would become sacrifices.

It might be the nature of a helpless man to want to get closer, even if it’s only by a little, to that beautiful woman with lilac-colored skin.

“Hmm, looks like you’re in a tight spot. Allow me to lend a hand.”

In this volatile atmosphere, after turning pulling Ponta from the top of my head and turning her into a scarf for safety, I approached the man next to the wagon while calling out in an innocent tone.

For a moment, only the surrounding air rustled.

If a silver knight who wore a black cloak suddenly emerged from the thicket, of course anyone would find it suspicious. The man who threatened her earlier seemed to be lost in thought.

“Lend a hand? Lend…” With a confused expression that seemed to be pondering something, he muttered under his breath.

I closed the distance towards the off-guard man who couldn’t seem to make a decision.

Although I could have simply transferred to shorten the distance, I was hesitant to thoughtlessly reveal it in front of so many people. It was a delicate situation, as it was still unknown whether or not defeating the kidnappers would create the opportunity to form a friendly relationship with the forest people.

“Al-alright! I will reward you generously if you capture that dark elf!!! However, be sure to capture her alive!!!”

“What!! What on earth are you thinking!!! We can’t trust such a suspicious person; are you mad!!!”

When the man, whose patterns of thinking must have been completely faulty, called out such words as if they were good ideas, one of the members of his group protested. As expected, there was still at least one person who was able to think rationally in this situation.

“Annoying, so annoying, just shut up!!! You lot are so incompetent that you couldn’t even overcome a single woman!!! Capture her quickly!! We can’t let such a precious rare species get away!!!”

This group appeared to be capable, so how did such an incompetent person get mixed in? I wonder who the leader in charge of this group of kidnappers is? Although, at this point, I suppose it doesn’t matter…

So, she’s apparently a dark elf, huh… Her features do differ considerably from that of an elf. Although, in the game, dark elves had long ears instead, along with red eyes and dark brown skin; their features in this world seemed to be quite different.

Furthermore, considering they were a rare species, their numbers were probably few.

While thinking of such irrelevant thoughts, I closed the distance towards the incompetent man to a short degree. Even with my full-body armor, thanks to my current greatly enhanced body, I was able to cover the distance in the blink of an eye.

I drew my sword and slashed at his arm ― the one he had used to brandish his sword earlier. As if he couldn’t understand what had just happened, he had a dumbfounded expression on his face as he took his final breath. After the upper body began to fall, the flaccid lower half hit the ground and spilled its filth onto the well-tailored pants.

Everyone was stunned at the sight they had just witnessed. However, in the next moment, the dark elf regained her senses.

While everyone else was still distracted, she took the opportunity to cut down three men.

A man tried to regain his stance, but before he was able to, I dashed forward and cleaved him in two with an overhead swing, as if I was preparing to fillet a fish. Pure panic and fear took over the men as screams filled the air.

Arrows from above, courtesy of the elf in the tree, picked off all those who tried to escape.

In a matter of minutes, stillness descended upon the clearing, with only the sounds of the insects and the rustle of the leaves breaking the silence.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 15

V3 Chapter 15

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

Meeting in Rinburuto

In the center of the Great Canada forest. Next to the huge lake that was christened Great Slave stood the forest capital of elven society, the city Maple.

The metropolis that was home to over one-hundred thousand people was entirely constructed of fused tree buildings, surrounded by two city walls.

At the center of this metropolis was a structure taller than all others, a tower built within a large tree.

This place, referred to as the Institute, was where the power of the villages that dotted the Great Canada forest was consolidated, and where the ten great elders and the current chieftain gathered.

On the Institute's top floor, on the balcony of one of the rooms where the Great Slave Lake could be looked down upon, two men were sitting at a table across from each other.

One of the men was Dylan, who was calmly lifting a cup of tea to his lips as his slightly long, green tinged blonde hair blew in the wind.

Across from Dylan sat a male dark elf with short-trimmed white hair. He had a large scar on his face and his body was robust and rugged. His name was Fangas Furan Maple and he stroked his beard as he stared at his friend Dylan.

Not only was he one of the ten great elders, he was also the father of Dylan's wife Glenys.

"Please forgive me. I know that the transfer from Raratoia requires quite an amount of magic stones, but I still called for you."

Fangas' low and thick voice, combined with his face and large body, made him difficult to approach, even among dark elves.

However, after knowing him for many years, Dylan was able to put on his usual smile as he shook his head, lowered his cup of tea, and answered his father-in-law.

"It's no burden at all, I received eight Wyvern magic stones from my house guest, so I had no trouble transferring here."

"That adventurer my granddaughter hired…… do you trust him?"

Fangas' tone carried quite a bit of animosity when he slightly raised his eyebrow and stared his son-in-law down. However, Dylan simply shrugged his shoulders and looked back at Fangas.

"Yes. He's a bit odd, but I'd say I trust him. He seems to help and look after Ariane a lot."

"……I see, if that's your judgment then I won't say anything about it."

After he said that, Fangas crossed his arms and snorted.

Ariane was his precious granddaughter after all. Of course he'd be a little anxious at the idea of an unknown human hanging around her.

However, a great elder such has Fangas wouldn't call the elder of Raratoia to Maple just for that. With a wry smile, Dylan asked his father-in-law why he had been called here.

"Father-in-law, what is it that you really wanted to discuss?'

"Ah, I was getting to that. A messenger from Rhoden recently brought up the incident in Diento at our Rinburuto embassy. Tomorrow we'll leave the Institute and head to Rinburuto in order to attend the meeting about it."

Dylan wasn't all that surprised at what he had just been told since he had already guessed as much on his way over, so he simply nodded.

"That was quicker than I thought it'd be."

Fangas sighed as he looked at his son-in-law with dull eyes.

"The person that visited wasn't a simple messenger…… It was none other than Rhoden Kingdom's second princess Juliana."

Dylan was shocked for a moment when he heard that name, but he soon calmed down and smiled as he reached into his breast pocket and handed Fangas a sealed letter.

"This is truly a coincidence. I had wanted to get into contact with princess Juliana, so I suppose this saves me the trouble."

After Fangas took the letter and examined it, he looked back at Dylan and asked him what it was about.

Dylan proceeded to summarize everything Ariane had told him yesterday.

"I see. In that case we would still have a way to salvage the meeting if the talks were to take a turn for the worse……"

Fangas had a large grin on his face while he stroked his beard.

The next day, Dylan and Fangas went to the heavily guarded transfer hub in Maple and transferred to the small shrine in Sasukatun, the closest village to Rinburuto Archdukedom.

Sasukatun was separated from the Rinburuto Archdukedom by the Sagune river, which was flowing into the gulf of Arudoria.

Though it would take a while to reach Sasukatun from Maple via normal means, the trip could be completed instantly by using large quantities of magic stones as an energy source.

Adjacent to the sprawling capital of Rinburuto was a huge harbor that sat on the opposite shore of the Great Canada Forest.

Currently, the Rinburuto Archdukedom was the only official trading partner of the elves, so other human nations had to come here if they wanted to obtain the superior magic tools of the elves.

As a result, the Rinburuto Archdukedom became relatively a wealthy country and the leader in technological advancement.

Dylan and Fangas sailed from Sasukatun into the gulf of Arudoria before docking at Rinburuto's harbor.

They tied the boat down in a section of the harbor reserved for elves. A carriage and a group of soldiers were already waiting for them at the port, so they boarded the carriage and waited for it to set off.

Normally, escorts would surround the carriage on horseback, but elves weren't really competent horse riders since they normally traverse the forest on foot.

However, Fangas had objected to bodyguards, having confidence in his toned body and skills he amassed as a former soldier. The war mace hanging on his waist wasn't a decoration, but his dwarven-crafted, personal weapon. If he were to get serious, he would be able to crush the skull of a Ground Dragon since most of the elders were excellent combatants, therefore any guards would've been just for show.

After the soldiers of the Rinburuto completed their formation surrounding the carriage, it started to move.

The carriage that picked them up headed straight for the castle located in the center of the archdukedom's capital.

Crossing the stone bridge across the moat that surrounded the castle walls, the carriage drove through the gate and entered the castle grounds, arriving at the white walls of the towering palace in which the Archduke ruling Riburuto lived. It's untold number of spires and elegantly carved walls gave the palace a dignified atmosphere.

Thought its appearance differed from the Institute's in Maple, this building also drew the attention of those who saw it. Since it was Dylan first time setting foot into Rinburuto, he was rather interested in the scenery that passed by the carriage window.

When the carriage stopped at the foot of the palace's main stairway entrance, several servants promptly stepped up to receive Dylan and Fangas. The two of them were then lead to a palace room where a woman waiting for them,

"It's been a long time, Fangas-sama."

The woman with beautifully combed blonde hair turned her gentle brown eyes towards Fangas and smiled as she slightly lifted her pale blue dress in a curtsey.

Fangas smiled at her welcome and returned a slightly exaggerated bow in return.

"It's an honor to meet with grand duchess Serena directly."

The woman Fangas returned a greeting to was none other than Serena Melia De Olav Tishiento, the archduchess of Rinburuto

"Even though this is an impromptu meeting, I thank you for coming."

“We’re here because we’re a little interested in meeting the messenger from Rhoden Kingdom.”

While Serena smiled thinly at his statement, Fangas simply smiled back until she began speaking again.

“Princess Juliana is my littler sister, all I ask is that you don’t be too hard on her.”

“Oh, we’re really just looking forward to meeting her.”

Serena then led the two of them to a back room. Although the room they entered wasn’t that large, there was a large round table in the center of the room and the sunlight that filtered in from the window brightened the tasteful decor.

Sitting in the room were a young lady and her maid, along with three young knights who were standing behind them.

The young lady rose from her seat and offered a greeting when she saw Dylan and Fangas enter.

Her beautiful brown eyes and lovely blonde hair were similar to Serena’s, though hers was longer. There was also visible tension on her face. She lacked Serena’s mature atmosphere and looked more like a girl, but no one could deny the strong will that dwelled in her eyes.

“This is our first meeting. I am Rhoden Kingdom’s second princess Juliana Marill Melissa Rhoden Olav.”

As she was speaking, she lifted her dress and offered them a humble curtsy.

“I am Fangas Furan Maple, a great elder and ambassador of Great Canada Forest. I’m a little old-fashioned, so I appreciate it when people show a little common courtesy.”

Fangas had a menacing smile on his face when he said that. The young knights that stood beside Juliana became a little stiff when they saw that, but Fangas paid them no mind and turned to Dylan.

“This here is──”

“I am the elder of Raratoia, a village of the Great Canada Forest. My name is Dylan Targ Raratoia. It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance.”

Seeing Dylan’s more relaxed greeting, compared to Fangas’s, the tension left the knights’ faces and they breathed a relieved sigh. They weren’t the only ones, since Juliana and the maid beside her both felt the tense atmosphere in the room relax a little.

Dylan quietly smiled after looking around before he started speaking as the go-between.

“Please be at ease, despite his appearance my father-in-law means no harm.”

Fangas and Juliana took at seat after Dylan urged them to sit at the table. Dylan sat down beside Fangas while the grand duchess Serena sat in between both parties.

After exchanging greetings once again, princess Juliana began to tell her tale.

“The reason I approached the elves for this meeting is due to an event that recently occurred in Rhoden Kingdom’s territory of Diento.”

Fangas crossed his arms and remained silent as he listened to princess Juliana. Dylan remained focused on what the princess was saying but he didn't react to anything in particular.

"I'm ashamed to admit it, but Diento's feudal lord was suspected of breaking the treaty and kidnapping elves. Shortly after the royal family began to investigate, the lord was assassinated."

Juliana stopped talking for at that point and turned to the silent Fangas. However, Fangas didn't move an inch and simply raised an eyebrow at Juliana.

"I intend to investigate the details of this case and would personally like to apologize for what happened. However, this matter involves the dignity of the royal family. I believe it to be suitable for the royal family to seek consultation on how to handle this matter, no?"

Juliana seems to have concluded that the elves were involved with marquis Diento's assassination, and was offering a pardon for it.

This seemed to catch Fangas's attention as he sported a toothy grin when he heard it.

"Hum, what do you want from us then?"

The kingdom was the one the broke the treaty in the first place and the elves merely retaliated in kind, so this wasn't a situation where either side could make demands since both sides had already suffered losses.

"Well, I would like to make a simple request…… for the elves of the Great Canada Forest to become my supporters for the throne of Rhoden."

Juliana lowered her head as she spoke. Fangas nodded at her proposal and urged her to continue.

So Juliana explained the turmoil over the succession rights that was currently plaguing the royal family.

"Juliana-dono what would we stand to gain from supporting you?"

"My older brother Sect is receiving support from the Western Leburan Empire. It was the old Leburan Empire that was responsible for the tragedy of the dwarfs in the past. While we are separated by the wind dragon mountain range, if my brother takes the throne the empire's influence will naturally increase. This is unconfirmed information, but there is a rumor that the empire is developing new magic tool at the elves' expense."

The 『Dwarven Tragedy』 she spoke of was when the dwarves of the Northern continent were hunted for their metallurgic knowledge. It was the old/previous/former Leburan Empire that led the hunts, and as a result of their severe and cruel acts human history now stated that the dwarves, along with their knowledge, have disappeared from the continent.

However, unbeknownst to the humans was that during those days the dwarves had formed an alliance with the elves and were currently living secluded in the forest capital Maple.

"Juliana-dono do you intend to stand against the empire if you obtain the throne?"

Dylan, who had been mostly quiet till now, asked the question, while Fangas looked the princess in the eyes to verify her true intentions.

Juliana’s response was a silent nod.

“We elves are rather ignorant of human politics, so would our support really help you all that much?”

Fangas’s large arms remained crossed as he sighed.

“Frankly speaking, I do believe so. I hope to arrange trade negotiations between my followers and the elves.”

“However that’s……”

In response to Juliana’s statement Dylan turned to Serena, who had been calmly seating off to the side.

“The Grand Duke is already aware of this and has approved the sale of 『Abundant Harvest Stones』. Rinburuto is currently the only country dealing in 『Abundant Harvest Stones』 and if I’m able to obtain the trading right, my influence within the royal family would increase, thus drawing a multitude of nobles to my side.”

“I see. Juliana-dono, you’re trying to promote a positive relationship with the elves.’

Fangas actually moved his large body and began to stroke his white beard. However, a large smile soon appeared on his face.

“I recently learned that one of my brethren married your country’s feudal lord of Lanbaltic. If mutual understanding between elves and your countrymen continues, then that partnership may be possible. I can’t make any promises about trade negotiations yet, but I will have a response for you after the next meeting of the great elders .”

At that response, Juliana’s turned towards the knights and the maid that stood beside her, but they were simply nodding their heads with a surprised look on their faces.

Seemingly pleased with their reaction, Fangas stood up and offered his hand. Juliana quickly rushed to grasp his hand and sighed as a relieved expression appeared on her face.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 16

Chapter 16

Translator: Silver　Editor: Kaio

「Waiting to Infiltrate」 Part 1

“Well then, first, I’m going to join Danka who’d already infiltrated Diento. Follow me.

“About that… Can I suggest something?”

In order to strengthen my relationship with the elves, it might be better to disclose one of my abilities. Besides, this appearance makes covert operations pretty much impossible. However, with the use of 【Dimensional Step】that allowed for short-range transfer, slipping into somewhere without being seen wouldn’t be anything difficult.

If I was to be in a silver full body armor right in front of the place where the elves would free the prisoners, I would stand out as a target and the possibility of becoming a wanted man, unable to move freely, was very real. That being the case, by using this magic to secretly sneak in, there’s no need to worry about being seen by any witnesses during the rescue.

“A suggestion? You’re a little too relaxed; before reaching Diento, the forest will already be dark.”

As she lightly held down her beautiful white hair that fluttered in the wind, she seemed to be a little doubtful of my intentions.

“Ariane-dono, do you know of transfer magic?”

“…? I know of it, but what does that have to do with anything?”

I saw slight traces of caution spreading in her eyes. Was the topic of transfer magic something that’s taboo? But having come as far as this, not saying anything wasn’t an option… Preparing myself for the worst, I continued.

“I’m able to use transfer magic; with it, we can immediately arrive at Diento. Infiltrating as well as escaping from the prison should be considerably easier if we incorporate its use into the rescue plan.”

“Transfer magic!? No way?! An individual being able to wield the power spoken of in legends?! Even us elves relying on the use of magic tools are barely able to invoke such magic…!!”

Both of her golden eyes widened; her expression was one of obvious shock as she rapidly rattled on. After a while, in a fit of sudden realization, she flusteredly covered her mouth with her hands.

It seemed that while the elves had knowledge of transfer magic, it wasn’t the type of thing that could be invoked based on a single person’s magic ability. However, by using their magic tools, the elves were able to use transfer magic…and based on the tone earlier, humans didn’t seem to possess such tools for transfer magic; otherwise, it might be the

case where they couldn’t use them. Looking at her panicked face, the fact that the elves were able to use transfer magic might be a closely-guarded secret.

“Forget what you just heard! No…prove that you are able to use transfer magic. Supposing it’s true, we won’t reveal it, but you also must promise not to disclose that thing from earlier!”

Her speech and conduct was relentless, with an intensity that didn’t allow refusal, demanding from me an immediate reply. In the case where the inimical humans became aware of the existence of super technology that enables the use of things such as transfer magic, the desire for this technology could very well start a war between the two races; it’s something to be of concern. Dealing with me knowing the existence of technology can be said to be possible, but…

Having two people mutually share their secrets could certainly give both parties peace of mind.

“…I understand. Regarding the talk about the elves’ transfer magic, I promise to keep my lips sealed.”

Bombastic words of promise were given to her.

“Good. Well then, shall you show me this transfer magic at once?”

With a flutter of her grey cloak, Ariane stood with her hand against her waist, striking a daunting pose, her gaze prompting action.

Ponta seemed to understand the situation. Invoking wind magic with a cry, she floated to her usual place, clinging to the top of my helmet.

Finishing with the collection of all of my luggage in preparation for departure, I shouldered the bag and called out to Ariane before activating the spell.

“As agreed. Well then, opening a path near the town of Diento. 【Transfer Gate】!”

As the spell activated, a three meter wide magic circle emanating bluish-white light emerged, expanding beneath our feet. The day had declined considerably, with the shadows of the lush trees in the forest thickening. A mysterious fantastical light dyed the trees, and all of a sudden, the scenery before my eyes was completely plunged into darkness.

However, in just an instant, realizing that the previous forest landscape had disappeared, we were standing at a completely different location.

With her arms folded, she had a look of utter surprise on her face after seeing the result. Her two golden eyes opened wide as she gazed at all of the surrounding scenery.

Dusk was already approaching, with shades of orchid dyeing the sky. A gently blowing wind swept through the meadow, caressing the grass, and creating a refreshing rustle that tickled the ears.

A small distance away, there was a stone bridge with six arches, underneath which the flowing Rydell River could be seen. Beyond that point, an unbroken view of the city walls that enclosed Diento presented itself.

“I’m surprised… No, for there to truly be a person capable of using transfer magic without chanting…even now, I feel like I’m dreaming… This certainly is the best power for rescuing my brethren.”

While looking at her surroundings with an appearance of continual admiration, she turned around and gave me a broad smile. She seemed to be honestly pleased that prospect of the upcoming rescue mission was brighter.

“Although it’s a convenient magic, it’s not without any weaknesses. Travelling to a place requires me to have previously gone there, as well as a clear memory of the location. For places with similar scenery such as forests or the interior of a cave, it probably won’t be very successful…”

“Even so, that’s enough! The transfer magic that elves use, in the first place, can’t connect to areas outside of those with certain conditions, not to mention that a large amount of mana has to be expended…”

There seemed to be various restrictions with the use of the elves’ transfer magic; however, even so, the ability was still far superior to the present-day transportation technology.

“Well, I can’t stay surprised forever. Before long, I have to slip into Diento.”

As Ariane announced, pulling herself together, she tugged her hood low over her eyes and completely covered herself with her cloak, wearing it like an outfit, before starting to take steps towards the town of Diento.

As a dark elf, her crystal-smooth lilac colored skin was considerably from that of the normal elves and humans, which made it fairly conspicuous. Without hiding her whole body like this, she would probably be found out instantly.

In my case, since my armor covered up my skeletal body, no one can see it. A little affinity welled up, though her situation was a little different from mine since she had an actual flesh and blood body.

Donning my own black cloak, the luxurious silver armor was completely covered before I started walking behind her, following her lead.

Though dusk was dyeing the town of Diento, as one would expect of a major traffic point, a large number of people in carriages were still crossing the six arched bridge in order to enter the town. At this time, with no one leaving the town, the flow of people moved in one direction.

Crossing over the bridge, we passed through the first gate along with the stream of people until we came up to the second gate. Walking while being fully armed and covered head to toe in a black cloak somehow led to the crowd parting before me. Since it wasn’t a particularly troubling thing, I silently advanced towards the second gate.

While showing my adventurer’s identification, I spoke up for the fully covered Ariane.

“Behind me is my companion. How much is the entrance tax?”

The gate guard gave Ariane behind me a fleeting glance, showing no particular interest towards the many people trying to enter the town, and opened his mouth, replying in a brusque manner.

“It’s 1 sek.”

From the leather bag at my waist, I retrieved a silver coin and handed it over to the guard, after which I entered the town together with Ariane.

With the sun already set, light from the scattered lamps shone through the streets, mixing with the overflowing energy from the lively throng. As we weaved our way through the crowd in the plaza before the southern gate, I asked Ariane regarding our next move.

“Well, we’ve managed to enter Diento, but what do we do next, Ariane-dono?”

“Passing through the gate right after crossing the bridge should exit into a plaza… This is the meeting spot where I’m supposed to wait for Danka. I guess he’ll find us here.”

With that, she made her way through the surging crowd to a corner in the plaza, her back against the wall before she focused on the crowd of people. Following suit, I leaned against the wall and turned my gaze towards the same crowd.

Danka was the elf that I previously met outside of this town. Last time, in order to hide the elves’ distinct long ears, he wore a hood. However, right now I couldn’t find anybody fitting that description in my immediate line of sight.

A short time later, someone was approaching in our direction. With a hemp colored cloak, the hood worn low over his eyes, that person walked towards us.

When Ariane also noticed this person, she straightened, separating from the wall before receiving him.

“Ariane, why is this man here?”

Stopping before us, the man in the beige colored cloak asked Ariane that question in a low voice. The voice was familiar; it was the same as that of the man I met outside the town.

“It’s just a little development… This time, I employed an adventurer for a little help.”

“Are you serious?!”

Danka’s voice was filled with surprise and reproach.

It can’t be helped; the act of hiring a self-proclaimed human to rescue elves captured by humans was something that can’t be understood.

“To stand around while having this conversation…let’s find somewhere to sit down.”

After saying so, she quickly left the plaza. Danka must’ve judged that there would be no point in arguing here as he reluctantly followed behind her. Adopting Danka’s lead, I followed behind them.

After leaving the plaza, we entered along the main street, a business location where a great number of stalls were lined up. Before the stalls, tables and chairs were placed for convenience, making the whole place somewhat like a stall village.

Here and there, seated around the tables, people from the surrounding stalls clamored while ordering food and alcohol.

Ariane sat down at a vacant table, asking Danka about buying liquor and snacks.

“Danka~, I want to eat those skewers! And suitable alcohol to go along with it, please. Arc, how about you?”

“I’ll pass.”

The roasted meat from the stall did give off a pleasant, fragrant aroma, but there’s no way I can remove my helmet in front of such a crowd. Though I don’t feel hunger with this body, I have no choice but to endure the desire to eat normally.

“Why me…”

Even though Danka was grumbling, he still went off to place the order at the stall in accordance with her request. While watching from behind, I took a seat at the same table as her, while Ponta who had been attached to the top of my head came down onto the table and sat down.

It seemed that the pleasant smell may have stimulated her hunger.

“Kyu~n.”

After she let out a cry that seemed a little miserable, Danka brought back alcohol inside a wooden container that looked like a tankard and grilled meat on skewers, while carrying a plate of peanut like nuts to follow up. After placing everything on the table, he took a seat as well.

“Since I was battling the kidnappers in the forest, my stomach has declined. Arc, this person’s Danka Neil Maple. Like me, he’s also an elven warrior, and, lately, is the one who has been gathering information in this town. Danka, the man in the armor is Arc. He incidentally joined up and assisted me and Donnaha in the fight with the kidnappers in the forest.”

Hmm? She said Maple just now…the name that seemed sweet sounded familiar. That is, it was the same family name as the one before my eyes stuffing her cheeks with the delicious skewered grilled meat, Ariane Glenys Maple.

“If I’m not mistaken, I remember Ariane-dono also giving Maple as your last name, but are you two siblings?”

Danka raised his eyebrows slightly at my question, while Ariane let out an amused laugh, shaking her skewered meat. Ponta’s eyes moved left and right, following every movement of the swaying skewer.

“Standard elven names are a combination of one’s own name, the name of the parent of the same sex, and the name of the village you belong to. Though I have brothers and sister from the same village, the two of us aren’t members of the same family. It simply means that we belong to Great Canada Forest’s capital, Maple.”

The naming system was considerably different from Japan’s.

At any rate, was Great Canada Forest the one commonly known as ‘Forest of the Elves’ and ‘Lost Forest’? Moreover, for the forest’s capital to be called Maple…was the place famous for its plentiful production of syrup or something??

“Is ‘Great Canada Forest’ the same place that the humans call ‘Forest of the Elves’?”

“The humans seem to call it that. After we built there a great elven city, the founding Patriarch-sama gave it the name, ‘Great Canada Forest’. The name of the capital of the forest, Maple, was one that Patriarch-sama had decided upon.”

…Could existences like me have at times spilled over to this world? No matter how I think about it, the names 『Canada』 and 『Maple』 don’t seem to be coincidences. However, when she spoke about the first patriarch…it was as if the story happened quite a long time ago.

“Around when was the forest’s capital, Maple, built?”

“Maybe around eight hundred years ago?”

While speaking, Ariane tilted her head slightly to one side, looking slightly doubtful, and turned her gaze towards Danka, who gave her a small nod. Afterwards, with a cough, he changed the subject.

“Such a thing is trivial right now, don’t you agree? Leaving that aside, do you really intend to bring this guy along on the operation this time?”

Danka managed to direct the derailed conversation back to one concerning the current mission.

Ariane beckoned for Danka to come closer with her hand. After he drew near, she whispered something into his ear.

When she finished speaking, in the interior of the hood, his expression changed to one of astonishment. Drawing closer to me, Danka quite skillfully questioned in a small voice that was similar to a shout.

“You, is the part about using transfer magic true?!”

“Yes, although there are some restrictions, I can use it.”

Although I don’t think that anyone could hear us over the surrounding clatter, I still responded in a low voice.

Danka looked alternately at me and Ariane with an expression of disbelief. Ariane gave Ponta a piece of meat and started to play with her triangular ears, not paying him any attention…

“So? You said that you found the base? How’s the situation?”

While pulling on Ponta’s ears, separating them, and caressing her head, she questioned Danka about the ascertained base.

Danka finally calmed down, with his shaken expression replaced by a serious one, and continued talking.

“Ah, yes. The kidnappers’ base is located in the red-light district near the eastern gate. As there’s still a lot of traffic shortly after sunset, we’ll wait for when the traffic lessens during the night to invade. In addition, there are also lookouts; it seems that quite a number of people are inside…”

Rather than being in the noble district surrounding the feudal lord’s castle at the heart of the city, the base seemed to be in the red-light district near the eastern gate. It was an area

that I avoided because I didn’t want the trouble of getting involved with the strange lot over there.

“Have you identified the number of people imprisoned there?”

“According to the information I got from my informant, there are four. With more expected to be brought in before long…”

“Since we thwarted their plan for new additions today, then there remains only the four captured in the base. Since we have Arc’s magic this time, the escape should be fairly easy.

“So, we have to wait around here till it’s time to act…”

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 17

Chapter 17

Translator: Silver　Editor: Kaio

「Waiting to Infiltrate」 Part 2

After discussing the arrangements for the infiltration with Ariane, Danka fixed his hood, pulling it once again over his eyes before sitting with his arms folded across his chest, and calmly closed his eyelids. It appeared that there was still a surplus of time before the infiltration.

“Well then, should I also try to finish taking care of some business…”

While speaking, I stood up and shouldered my luggage bag. In response, Ponta who was purring from Ariane’s strokes let out a “Kyun!” on top of the table before getting up and jumping onto my shoulder

Although Ariane’s gaze was slightly envious as she looked at this scene, while glaring at me, she opened her mouth and said: “I understand your intentions, but…”

“I won’t run away from here now…”

She seemed to be worried about something, but when I tried to assure her, she shook her head as if to say that her concern was different.

“I’m not worried about such a thing now. I wanted to say get back as soon as you can.”

After saying this, she turned away. Somehow or other, I seemed to have gained a tentative trust. With a nod, I said “I’ll be back soon” before leaving my seat. Ponta still took her usual reserved spot, and was wagging her tail back and forth judging from the signs transmitted from the back part of my helmet.

Leaving the stall village, I headed down the street and made my way towards an area lined with shops. The shops were already closed; the glow leaked from the windows and light from the sparse lamp posts provided the only sources of illumination.

When I arrived before the shop I had intended to visit, its doors were already closed, just like all the other shops in the vicinity. A wooden signboard with a sword and shield design as well as the name of the weapons shop engraved on it was hung above the store.

“Ahh~, as expected, the shop has already closed~. It can’t be helped; I’ll have to come again tomorrow…”

While ascertaining whether the shop was still open, I heard a young man speaking to himself.

When I turned to look behind me, a man in his twenties who was sitting in a wagon that stopped on the street before the weapons shop had his head hung. Judging from his atmosphere and his appearance, he’s probably a peddler of some kind. The various types of luggage piled atop the wagon could be made out with the scarce light that shone from the street.

“Does Peddler-dono have business with this weapons shop?”

“Eh? Ah! H-hey there, Knight-sama!”

When I called out, the young peddler had a puzzled expression for an instant as he turned towards me. When he properly saw the silver helmet above my black cloak, he jumped off his wagon in a rush and bowed his head.

“I’m merely a travelling adventurer; there’s no need to be so formal. So, does Peddler-dono have business with this weapons shop?”

‘Eh? Ah! That’s right. I planned to come here to stock up the weapons, but my arrangements for entering this town were considerably delayed…”

The young merchant said so with a forced smile. This was surely a godsend. The weapons I collected from the kidnappers not long ago were a hindrance that couldn’t be helped.

“Oh, as a matter of fact, I came here wanting to sell weapons to this shop, but unfortunately it’s already closed… If Peddler-dono is fine with it, won’t you buy them from me?”

“Is it really true?! Um, and could you show me what sort of weapons they are…?”

“Of course. Though it’s the loot from when I subjugated bandits…”

With these words, I placed the luggage bag I carried on my shoulder on the ground, widening the hole.

At my response, the young merchant had an expression of obvious disappointment, after which he hurriedly covered up with a smile. Was it bad to say that they were goods taken from bandits?

I took out one of the swords from the bag and handed it over. The young peddler reluctantly held the sword, drawing it from its scabbard in order to check its condition.

Thereupon, the smile the young man previously kept up for appearances changed, revealing a look of joy. But his expression, which can be completely understood, was much too honest for a merchant; as your customer, I can easily see it…

The young peddler took out a lamp from the luggage carrier, relying on its light as he drew each weapon from their scabbards to examine their condition one by one.

“Did you really get these from bandits? These weapons are forged from nothing but considerably fine steel?! No repairs seem to be necessary; with a bit of sharpening they can be sold as is!”

Instead of bandits, they were taken from the group of kidnappers who took elves captive, but there’s no need to say that.

Nevertheless, it seemed that bandits basically didn’t have good weapons that remained in such condition…probably because the basis of bandit factions was the joining together of those who went broke in order to loot and plunder.

The disappointment upon hearing that the weapons were taken from bandits was probably due to the fact that they very likely weren’t superior quality goods.

When the young man finished briefly appraising the weapons, he folded his arms in front of the weapons arranged in a line and let out a groan as he looked at them.

“Hm~m, the fifteen over here are high quality weapons in good condition, but the one over here is of even higher quality than the rest…”

The sword the young man was holding, if I’m not mistaken, was the one that the incompetent man had carried. Although incompetent, he seemed to have had the best sword.

One only had to look at the workmanship of the sheath and the brilliance of the blade to draw a clear distinction between the other swords.

At any rate, he didn’t notice that as he was engrossed in deliberation, a fretting voice escaped from him. Had he hidden that earlier piece of information, he probably could have bargained for a cheaper price and sold it at a markup elsewhere…

I wondered, can this person become successful as a merchant?

“When you add it all together, with the amount I have at hand, I can’t afford to buy everything…then, how should I narrow it down…hm~m.”

“How about 10 seok apiece, 150 seok altogether, Peddler-dono?

As there will be the infiltration operation after this, I didn’t want to bring along an excessive amount of miscellaneous baggage. I’m not bothered with getting less funds in an unfavorable bargain since I’m not worried about money right now.

“Eh!? Isn’t it 30 when you normally buy one?!”

“…Merchant-dono, it’s best to keep silent about such facts…”

When the young merchant spewed out a much too honest price for each sword and I offered some candid advice, he panickedly covered up his mouth with his hands.

It was even fun letting this good-natured merchant make a greater profit.

Since I wanted to dispose of all the goods onto this merchant right now, the price wasn’t a problem, and I once again suggested the price of 150 gold coins.

“Thank you very much! Well~, recently the area around the northern border frequently reported damage due to monsters, so I came here planning to sell weapons and things such as high quality metals.”

“Hmm, I see. That being the case, when I advanced from the highway through the town of Rubierute some time ago, I heard that recently quite a big-shot had appeared. At the time of preparation, people would be willing to purchase fine-quality weapons at a good price, right?”

“Is that true!? Thank you for the valuable information!”

The young man was all smiles with joy as he gave me a look filled with gratitude, piling up the weapons in his wagon as it is and, in high spirits, he pulled his horse to head towards the nearest inn. The sight of him time and time again looking back on the way there, bowing his head, made me feel that I wanted to continue to support him in spite of only meeting for the first time.

Ponta appeared to be bidding him goodbye as her fluttery tail stood up and wagged back and forth. I am of the impression that if the circumstances allowed for it, even spirit beasts would become attached to him…

While having such thoughts, I deposited the 150 gold coins inside my now lighter luggage bag and returned it to my back before starting to walk back.

Since Ariane and Danka were still at the stall village, I'd better join up with them ahead of time.

I returned to the stall village to the same place that Ariane and Danka were sitting at before and sat down at the vacant seat.

"You're unexpectedly fast. Have you already finished your business?"

Ariane asked while she used her additional newly ordered skewered meat as bait to lure in Ponta.

Danka's eyes remained closed, his arms still folded.

"Yes, I was able to sell the loot from those guys at a good price."

"I'm amazed. The so-called business that you had to take care of was…"

When I informed her regarding the contents of my business, Ariane had an astonished expression as she stared at me. When the nearby gluttonous Ponta jumped down onto the table, tempted by the bait, Ariane captured her, roughly rubbing the fur on her belly, and pulled her into an embrace.

While watching such interactions, we engaged in lighthearted idle chat as we waited for the time to pass.

The night had advanced considerably; in succession, the surrounding stalls were in the midst of ending their operations. Danka, who'd been asleep till now, abruptly stood up and exchanged a look with Ariane.

Ariane nodded and quietly left her seat.

"Let's go"

As I left my seat, Ponta, who'd been sleeping unnoticed on the table, lifted her head and hastily ran up to me. After picking her up and placing her on her usual reserved seat, I held my luggage under my arms and, with Danka taking the lead, followed after him.

Well, it would be nice if it ended uneventfully──

While I muttered such meager wishes, I made my way through the middle of the dark street that was nearly devoid of people.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 18

Chapter 18

Translator: Silver Editor: Kaio

「Operation Underway」 Part 1

The red-light district stretched across the area near the eastern gate of Diento. The width of the road wasn't very wide; each side was lined with suspicious shops.

The place was dotted with the squatting forms of people who were dead drunk, and the sight of them staggering around while supporting each other on their shoulders, humming jovial songs while red faced, could be seen.

Only at this time of night did nearly all the shops stop their operations. The sparse light that leaked from the shops along with the unreliable street light from the sporadically built lamps deepened all the more the darkness of the alleyways.

The moonlight, which was the primary light source that shone on the streets, could by no means penetrate the alleyways between the dense cluster of buildings.

It was in such an alleyway that the elven warrior Danka quietly advanced, leading the way. During the stillness in the dead of night, the rather loud sound of footsteps meeting the stone paving could be heard resounding.

In a short while, the vanguard Danka abruptly stopped, after which Ariane's feet also stopped.

When Danka peered out of the corner of the alleyway, jerking his chin towards Ariane, she turned her eyes to the previously indicated building.

It appeared that we've arrived at the building of our target.

I spotted signs of two people guarding the back of the building. It was a three-storied building made of stone that, considering it was located near the eastern gate, was still wide.

The buildings surrounding it were densely packed, and the spaces in between were nearly nonexistent. In front of the building, there was an iron-barred gate, with two men who looked like guards standing watch before it. Furthermore, on the other side of the gate, inside a structure similar to a front garden, there were around four ruffians that could be seen sitting crowded around the lamp light, chattering about something, and sometimes raising their voices in coarse laughter.

Since the two lookouts were completely visible from within the bars, even if they're taken out, the others would immediately notice, making a surprise attack difficult. The sturdy bars can also act as a shield that would slow down any frontal assaults.

Attacking the front of the building would instantly cause the surroundings to be confused as they sense an abnormal event. I think attacking alone would probably be very difficult.

Danka's gaze at Ariane asked about what we should do. When Ariane turned her eyes,

looking towards my direction, the edges of her charming lips that peeked out from below the hood raised slightly.

Seeing this, Danka glared at me with a discouraged look on his face.

“That armor isn’t suited for nighttime infiltration…the enemies will notice its sound.”

The armor I have on differ from the poor-quality armor hereabouts: it won’t make noises at random, but isn’t completely silent.

Such equipment was certainly not very fit for an infiltration mission, but for me with a skeleton interior, taking it off was impossible.

While I was considering such a thing, thinking about what to say, Ariane spoke up first.

“Since we have to get rid of all of those guys while rescuing our companions anyway, it shouldn’t matter whether we’re noticed early or not…”

Certainly, even if they see to the rescue of their brethren from the kidnapping group, leaving the organization itself alone will have a very high possibility of someone else being harmed. That being the case, cutting down the ringleader seemed to be self evident.

With that, she calmly spoke out , pointing to a small window at the roof of the building.

“Arc, can you get us to that small window over there?”

From the alleyway, a small window with a tiny triangular roof on top of the three-storied building could be seen. Since the window had no light leaking out, it could possibly be the an attic window.

“Yes, transferring over there would be easy.”

“Good, let’s move into the depths of the alleyway and transfer from there. After invoking your transfer magic, the shining magic formation would make those guys suspicious.”

“No, we’ll move using 【Dimensional Step】instead of 【Transfer Gate 】. This method’s suited for short-range movement.”

My words made Ariane’s fine eyebrows lift slightly, with her voice raised in surprise with traces of shock mixed in.

“There’s transfer magic exclusively used for short distances? Really, what kind of person are you?”

“I’m flying to the roof. Better hold onto my shoulders.”

【Dimensional Step】was a short-range magic that allowed everything in direct contact to move together with me, but it won’t bring along anything not in contact, no matter how close it might be. Ponta’s luckily always stuck on my head, so there were no issues there.

After confirming that Ariane and Danka had placed their hands on my shoulder, I turned my gaze towards the roof near the small window.

“【Dimensional Step】”

The nearby scenery changed completely in an instant; the previous sight turned into one where the moonlight spread out, shining on every roof. The previous stone paving beneath

our feet disappeared, replaced by roof tiles. I had stoop down a little to maintain my balance due to the naturally inclined roof.

Going up on the roof while in a full body armour was bad for the heart. Wondering when the roof would collapse while withstanding my weight, making a hole, made my heart go pit-a-pat.

“Amazing…”

Danka’s form fell to his knee in a crouch, muttering while viewing the state of the surroundings.

Since there were few buildings over three stories tall in the city, our visibility above the roof opened up, allowing us to take an extensive view of the state of the entire city. In the southwest direction, built at the central part of a small hill, the feudal lord’s castle and the black silhouette next to it gets a perfect score for its majestic appearance under the night sky.

“Come on, let’s go.”

While restraining her voice, Ariane approached the triangular roof’s window, peering in while slightly opening the small wooden window. There weren’t anything like windowpanes, only a window that was like a wooden cover. Since glass still seemed to be considered a high-class item, using it for an attic window like this would be bizarre.

“Okay, there’s no one inside. We can enter from here.”

Saying so, she hereupon opened the window fully, but her body as she tried to slip into the room was hindered by her voluptuous chest and buttocks, making her have to squirm slightly to get through.

When I looked at it from below, it seemed fine, but seeing it from up close, it was rather small. Ariane and Danka were slender, and it was barely wide enough.

For me in my full body armour, even thinking about entering through this tiny window was impossible. There’s only one thing to do when it becomes like this…

After Ariane quietly passed through, Danka successfully entered from the window without a problem. Finally, when it became my turn, I looked through the small opened window at the appearance indoors, and while invoking 【Dimensional Step】 without difficulty, completely entered the room.

(Hey! If there’s such a method, say so earlier!)

The watching Ariane raised a small voice of protest. She seemed to be embarrassed about the matter where her breasts and buttocks got stuck. Even in this dark room, it was clear that her cheeks were dyed vermillion.

It wasn’t the case that she’s grown particularly plump, so I don’t think it was necessary that she had to be so embarrassed.

“This place seems to be similar to a storeroom…”

Ignoring her voice of protest, Danka did things at his own pace, muttering in a low, carrying voice while analyzing our surroundings.

The room was converted into a storage room, with miscellaneous luggage piled up in appropriate arrangements. In spite of the space, there weren't a lot of luggage left behind; not very many people were coming and going either judging from the dusty air.

Danka moved slowly on the wooden floor so as to not make a sound, and advanced towards the thin stairway that led to the lower floor, peering down and making a gesture that seemed to say, "Be quiet!".

After Danka had confirmed that Ariane had nodded at him, he started to slowly descend the stairway that was connected to the lower floor.

A short time after there were signs of Danka moving around for some reason downstairs, he once more appeared in the attic with only his face showing and signaled "Come!" with his hand.

Seeing it, Ariane and I followed at the same time after Danka to the stairway leading to the lower floor, and descended.

We found ourselves in a room with four bunk beds placed within.

With the exception of Danka in the middle of the room, there weren't any signs of life ― only the smell of lukewarm iron rust. There were four men lying in their beds, but each person's throat was stabbed, with all of them dead from the loss of blood.

While Danka covered the ruffians' heads with blankets to disguise them as being asleep, Ariane approached the door in the middle of the room and peeked at the state outside.

It seemed to be safe; Ariane beckoned for us to go towards her. Once Danka had finished with his disguise and we moved together close to the door, Ariane gave directions in silence.

Danka was on right, Ariane was left, and I was inner center. Us three nodded to one another, and the door was opened.

The door opened up to a corridor ahead, with a rectangular atrium that could be seen in the interior. On both sides of the atrium were three equally spaced doors, and further inside, next to one of the doors, a stairway that led to the bottom could be seen.

Lamps were installed here and there in the passageway, illuminating in entirety the inside of the building.

This brightness in the atrium allowed for looking out over those approaching from downstairs, and given that the other party can also confirm with their sight, it's dangerous to investigate the doors on both sides without bending over.

Ariane and Danka soundlessly approached before the doors on each side in a low stance, straining their ears to find out the circumstances inside. Before long, the doors slowly opened and the pair slipped inside their respective rooms. I was the only one left on this level's corridor now.

Given that it was impossible not to make a sound walking on the wooden floor while fully equipped in metal armor, I used 【Dimensional Step】 to move to one of the interior visible doors. While thinking useless thoughts such as whether my legs would become frail if I relied on this magic too much for various things, I approached the door.

This wooden door differed from the typical doors in its vicinity that spoke of simplicity, with the door having dignified decorations and being fitted with a handle made of metal.

I can feel the presence of a person from beyond the door, but as I investigated and noticed the presence, a vigilant atmosphere drifted over. It seemed that the person on the other side had sensed my presence.

However, the other person since becoming alert hadn't done anything like raising their voice. I can't stand here like this the whole time without moving, so I decided to open the the door, laying my hand on the doorknob, but, somehow or other, it appeared to be locked. I peered into the door through the doorknob's keyhole and looked inside the room. Since the keyhole was like those old elementary school warehouse locks, I was able to see inside.

While looking at the view of the room on the other side of the keyhole, I decided on a target spot and activated 【Dimensional Step】.

I transferred into the bright room in the same posture as when I was peering into the keyhole from the corridor. The inside of the room was brighter than the corridor outside, and the room for some reason was crowded with gaudy furnishings lined up on both sides.

The middle of the room had a coffee table with a leather-covered couch, with an amber work desk further inside the room. A fat well-dressed man was sprawled with his face laying on the desk, not moving an inch.

Furthermore, illuminated by the lamps, there were three bloodstained armed ruffians collapsed around the vicinity. I could tell that all of them were already dead…

Hereupon, from the desk's shadow, a person dressed in completely black revealed their head, examining me before stepping forward and approaching.

"The door's lock should've been closed; nevertheless, how did Armor Onii-san enter just now?"

The person in black spoke in a small muffled voice, but, instead of answer the question, I unintentionally let out the first thought that came to mind.

"Ninja…"

At my unintentionally leaked words, the eyebrow of the person who was completely dressed in black from top to bottom lifted up slightly.

And simultaneously, covered by a hood, the ears attached to the area at the top of their head, with a twitch, moved in response…

The person before my eyes appeared to be a petite young girl. Her whole body was covered with clothes made of black fabric in a manner that was particularly moe, an outfit absolutely worthy of belonging to a ninja. Her legs had greave-type protectors made of metal, with gauntlets for her arms, and worn on her head was a black scorched metal-plated headband with a gold crown sewn on, with a straight-bladed dagger visible on her lower waist.

The only area with visible skin was around her lovely blue eyes that didn't give off much emotion, while on top of the hood, black triangular-type animal ears were attached. I also

noticed just now that a black tail was attached to her waist with a belt-like shape, with the tip of the tail sometimes moving in a flutter.

The ears and tail didn't show any signs of having the atmosphere of an artificial product; no matter how you looked at it, the responses they were displaying showed them to be alive. Following the elves, I seemed to have come across another new race in this world.

The young female ninja also surveyed me with my full-length black cloak wrapped around my armored body with a green fox atop my head; I could see her gaze carefully investigating my whole body.

"You don't seem to be a human from this place. Did you come here for some objective as well?"

The young female ninja finished her observation and threw another question at me, making me hard pressed to answer. Although she doesn't seem to be an enemy, it would be clumsy to reveal the purpose behind coming here to an outsider so easily.

While thinking about how to reply, the young female ninja already guessed at my purpose in coming here.

"Coming here to rescue the elves or some such…? If that's the case, they seem to be held captive in the dungeon."

I wasn't able to hide my surprise at the girl's words. With me wearing this whole-body armor, there's no way to tell whether I'm a human or an elf inside. Given that both Ariane and Danka were in the midst of searching the other rooms right now, there weren't any elves close to me, yet she was able to correctly guess my objective without hesitation.

I sent a fleeting glance at the former guards scattered about at her feet.

These were most likely her doings. Despite her slender physique, she seemed to be quite skilled. Did she get information on the circumstances of those being kept here out of them?

Once she was convinced of my objective, her gaze lightened a little.

"Did you sneak in here for the purpose of freeing the elves as well?"

Calming myself down, I asked her, though her purpose seemed to differ. She quietly shook her head, repudiating my guess.

"The object I'm after wasn't here. I was just considering what to do about the elves captured here…but, apparently, it seems that I can leave them to you guys."

She pulled in the large heavy-seeming leather bag that was placed on the desk, then she shouldered it, securing it tightly with a rope. Stopping at the opened window at the wall across the room with her foot set atop it, the young female ninja turned around to bid farewell.

"I'll leave the rest to you; since it's you, the chance to meet again is probable. Well then, let's meet again… Oh, about two elves are captured in the feudal lord's castle…"

The minute that she said that, despite carrying on her back a leather bag that rang out with heavy-seeming sounds, with movements that couldn't be sensed, she went from the

window to grasping the edge of the roof, and abruptly, with a single turn, the body on top of the roof disappeared from sight.

Before long, the girl’s thin presence faded away, disappearing in the blink of an eye under the veil of darkness that descended on the whole town, leaving no traces behind.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 19

Chapter 19

Translator: Silver Unedited

「Operation Commences」 Part 2

After the ninja girl left, I took a look behind the desk she originally came from. There was a small stone trapdoor opened under the desk.

There was a strong looking lock rolling around next to the door, having failed its purpose.

Peeking inside the door I found a small storage area, that contained a box full of metal ring and documents.

Apparently it was some kind of safe.

The heavy sack she was carrying might have been filled with the money. But judging from her demeanor and appearance, she only did this to cover up her true intentions here as a robbery. It’s not like I can condemn her anyway because I take money from bandits.

I didn’t know what she was looking for, but it didn’t seem like it would hinder our operation. Based on the parting words she left anyway. There seem to be two more elves trapped in the feudal lord’s castle. That would mean that the elf hunting had been authorized by the feudal lord himself.

If it’s true, then I’ll have to tell Ariane about it.

Once this rescue was done we might have have to infiltrate the lord’s castle.

While contemplating that, I pick up one of the parchments from the safe. Removing the bindings from the documents, the contacts turned out to be a sells reports.

The amount on the contract was insane, it exceeded well over 10,000 suk.

The 10,000 gold price tag was the cost of the elves being sold here.

There were six more contacts just like this one, seven in total.

The contracts included the names of those that had already been auctioned off. They also had the names of the buyers as well, so it might be possible to track down the elves that had been sold.

Still, elf slaves seem to be sold at outrageous prices according to this contract. I wonder why there was such a high demand for men though?

I shoved the seven contracts into my luggage sack before putting the ten metal rings in after them. I wrapped the rings in a cloth and put them in a leather pouch to prevent them from jangling about.

The owner already has cold feet so he won’t mind.

Once the safe was cleaned out, I took a look around the flashy room that reeked of flamboyance, but most of the stuff was on the bulky side.

Since my business here was done, I decided to prepare for the other two to join me a little early. I grab the key hanging on the door and unlocked it. Once they were done checking the rooms on each side, they should be heading here.

After a while, Ariane and Danka entered the room quietly and quickly closed the door.

“I only found a few small fry in the rooms, how about you?”

“There was nothing in particular in mine.”

Both got result that they weren’t happy about.

After hearing Danka’s answer, Ariane’s golden eyes were questioningly pointed in my direction.

“I gained some information. The captured elves are probably being held in the underground dungeon. There is also this.”

I pulled the parchments I got from the safe out of my sack and handed them to Ariane. She looked at it them with suspicion for a moment before she opened one and glanced over the contracts. Wrinkles started to crop up on her forehead.

“This……!”

“Those are the elves sale contracts. Since the names of the buyers are written down in several places, you should be able to use it as a clue. There’s more, apparently there are two more elves trapped in the feudal lord’s castle.”

“Where’d this information come from……”

Ariane looked up and glanced around the room as she asked that. The bodies inside the room have already become cold, and the boss was nothing more than a ornament for the desk now.

She judged that they were the source of the information. The source of the information is a trivial matter, what’s important now is that we need to move quickly.

While I trusted the words of the ninja girl…… it was merely based on my own intuition. Perhaps, it’s better to let them develop their own conclusions here.

“Once we’re finished here, we’ll head over the feudal lord’s castle. Hiring you was the right decision……, normally it wouldn’t be easy to sneak into the castle.”

She laughed while saying that and rolled the parchment back up before returning it to me.

“To think that the feudal lord was involved……! The elders have to be informed of this when we return.”

Danka raised an eyebrow as he spit out that comment.

Judging by the amount of money involved in the elven slave trade, wealthy nobles and merchant must be apart of it; has my workload been increased?

I suppose I could collect some extra income from the feudal lord’s castle……

“If our brethren are in the underground dungeon we have to go there at once. After that, the feudal lord’s castle.”

Danka nodded in agreement at Ariane's words and left the room. I follow behind Ariane and Danka using 【Dimensional Step】to prevent my armor from making noise.

We descended the stairway through the second floor to the first floor's central hall.

The disarray of the tables and chairs gave the hall the atmosphere of a pub, in fact there were even a few bad men hanging around. Fortunately they haven't noticed us yet.

Once Ariane gave the "fall back" gesture, we quietly returned to the second floor.

"As expected, it's impossible to reach the dungeon from here without being noticed. I'll take care of the ones on the first floor, while you two deal with the reinforcements from the second floor."

Both Danka and I nod at the suggestion, and Ariane pulls out her sword and focuses on the stairway to the first floor.

Then she leaps out in a flash.

From the the top of the stairwell, she leaped out with sword in hand; the gathered men were shocked at this occurrence.
『─Dance within this blade, flame─』

After she chanted in a low voice, flames started to run down the blade of her sword. The man she cut upon landing with the sword of fire, no only let out a spray of blood, but also had red flames wrap around his entire body and set his clothes ablaze.

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!"

As the man's death throes filled the the large hall, sounds of activity from other rooms on the first floor and on both sides of the second floor could be heard.

As his body was roasted by the flames, the man fluently rolled about between the table and chairs. A few of the near by men tried to put out the flaming man, but Ariane simply attacked them with her flame sword causing the fire to get even larger.

Danka came out of one of the rooms on the second floor and started to kill men that were trying to reach the first floor, with a sword covered in light. From this side it looked like a dance where no one was fit to partner with Danka.

I recall that the elves were a group that specialized in magic, but seeing the swordsmanship these two, I may have to rethink that assumption.

Since the men coming out of the farther back rooms could see what was going on, they tried to take another path around Danka, but I fired off 【Rock Bullet】at each of them. Rocks the size of fist not only tore new holes into the men but also into the wall behind them.

The guards listening to this outside could join the battle at any moment.

Using 【Dimensional Step】, I transfer in front of the front door and lowered the large bolt on the door to prevent anyone from getting in or out. None of these people here would ever leave this place alive.

"You bastardddd!!!"

A man trying to raise the moral of the group came charging at me from behind. When he got in range, I lightly throw my fist out in retaliation.

I felt the man's skull shatter before he was blow away, only after crashing through a table and chair did the impact with a wall stop him.

The physical abilities of a level 255 body were a bit overkill for opponents of this level.

Suddenly, a large wall of fire came from the within the compound. I think one of the men Ariane set ablaze with her sword might have ran towards the kitchen. Apparently some of the cooking oil caught fire.

While the building was made of stone, it was filled with flammable objects. Columns of flame started to spring up all over the place.

"Kyu〜n……"

Ponta, who was a top my head till now, wrapped herself around my neck and turned her ears downward because she didn't like the fire.

It like I'm wearing a fur scarf next to a blazing inferno.

Looking around I saw that the the clean up of the second floor was complete as Danka had already made his way to the first floor. Ariane had shock off the flames from her sword and was searching perimeter.

I could hear that someone was knocking of the large front door and faintly make out a yelling voice. The door seemed to be thicker and heavier than I thought, and combined with the firmly placed bolt it meant that no one could get in easily.

"There are the stairs to the basement!"

As the fire spread through the first floor, I look in the direction that Danka called out to and saw a stone staircase leading to the basement, that was hidden behind the main stairwell.

Frowning at the rising temperature caused by the fire, Ariane took off the hood of her cloak and gave a silent "follow me" gesture before running down the gloomy stairs.

Danka quickly follows behind, and I bring up the rear.

"What the hell!!? Gyuaa!!!!"

The scream of a man and the sound of metal clashing alerted me that there was a fight going on below as I descended the stairs.

"Fuck!! Why are you in this place!! What are those guys upstairs doing!!!"

I heard the sound of something hitting the floor, and when I arrived it was already over.

The basement was unexpectedly spacious, and the walls were lined with cell doors. The smell of the three fallen men's' blood was mixing with the earthen smell of the basement was a little disgusting though.

While covered in blood, Ariane reached down to one of the fallen men and rips off a metal key ring from his waist before running to one of the cells.

“I’m Ariane Glenys Maple! I’m here to rescue you!!”

When she delivered her introduction, something hit the cell door like a brick and caused a loud 「Clang」 sound to resonate.

“That’s a lie!? Warriors from maple have come to help!?”

Judging by appearance the girl against the cell door and shouted in surprise and joy was around 17 years old, and the girls that appeared after her looked even younger than that.

They all wore the same metal collars the children in the forest had on.

Ariane quickly inserted key after key into the keyhole looking for the right one. Before long, I hear the sound of the lock clicking and the girl burst out of her cell, the other girls were soon freed as well.

While the girls gave their gratitude to Ariane, I noticed that the flames had reached the top of the stone stairs. The removal of the 『Magic eating collar』 will have to wait, we don’t have the time to take things slow.

“Ariane-dono, the first floor has been consumed by the flames. We should hurry.”

When the girls noticed my voice, a number of screams were let out and they all hid behind Ariane.

Due to my body being covered by a black cloak and my face by my helmet, the first impression with the girls wasn’t very good.

“It’s all right, this man is a helper that I employed. Is this everyone that had been captured?”

The girls smiled a little before simultaneously nodding their heads at her question

“Arc, our business in done here.”

All right. I’ll transfer us outside of town in a moment!”

I approached the group of four girls that were around Arine, and I evoked the magic when I was sure Danka was within range.

“【Transfer Gate】!”

The dimly lit basement was illuminated by the light of the magic formation that appeared beneath our feet.

The four elf girls had a variety of expression as they clanged to Ariane as the floating sensation of the magic phenomenon occurred.

Despite the girls’ anxiety the floating sensation went by in an instant, their vision went dark, and the curtain of the moonlit sky proceeded the darkness.

The flow of the river could be heard and even the shadow of the six arch bridge could be seen. On the other side of the bridge, Diento’s city wall could be seen.

The girls surrounding Ariane looked around in amazement as they couldn’t understand what happened in that instant.

Along with the sounds of the river and the wind blowing through the grass, the high-

pitched sound of a bell could be heard from the towns direction. It was the alarm bell to inform people of the fire.

I could see smoke rising and a faint red glow from the other side of the city wall.

It was a sight that everyone in town could see……

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 20

Chapter 20

Translator: Silver Unedited

「Assault on Diento's lord」 Part 1

The Diento territory is ruled by the feudal lord, in the fortress that was roughly at the territory's center, one man ran down the corridor that led to the lord's bed room at great speed. While the castle's interior was very quiet, the sound of the alarm bells could be faintly heard from behind the glass windows.

The double-doors of the feudal lord's bedroom was luxuriously made with thick quality wood and ordained with gold.

Two sentries stood guard as the night witch and monitored for any suspicious individuals.

The panicked man run straight up to the door and started to violently bang on it, but no one could blame the sentries for this.

The man violently banging of the feudal lord's bedroom door was Cyrus Dorman, Consul of Diento.

"Triton-sama! It's Cyrus! There is a pressing matter that I have to inform you about!!"

His usually pale and stoic face was slightly red and had nervous sweat striking down it tonight.

"Cyrus, why are you here at such an hour? Open it."

Since the voice was muffled by the door, Triton doubtfully called to the speaker before ordering one of the maids inside the room to open the door.

Only the word "Rudeness" was heard as the man made his way inside the room.

Triton rose from his bed in the dimly lit room, and quickly dawned a gown so that he could meet Cyrus at the door.

"Triton-sama, the people in the room……"

While smoothing out his white mustache, Triton prompted the two maids to leave; after glancing at Cyrus the two obliged and left the room.

"What is this urgent business you spoke of?"

"Fires have broken out in the city──"

When Triton heard that he grimaced and let out a large sigh in disappointment.

While marquis Triton thought that there was no reason to barge into his bedroom for such a trivial matter, consul Cyrus continued to speak.

"A fire spread to the major slave trading buildings, including our "storehouse"!"

"What!!!!"

The startled Triton forcibly stood up and angrily approached the consul.

“The delivery date for the Eastern Leburan Empire is closing in! What happened to the products that were being kept in the “storehouse”!?”

“That’s, the guards say that someone infiltrated the building before the fire broke out……”

“What’d they say!? The guards were supposed to stop intruders!! What on earth were those fools doing!!!”

The marquis openly berated his foolish subordinates in his anger.

“The front door was suddenly bolted shut, they could only hear screams from within. All sides of the building were covered to prevent any blind spots, the only possibility is that there was a traitor within──”

“Fuck!! Send some of the castle soldiers out to make sure the fire is properly extinguished immediately! Even if the top burned, the basement was made of stone so it wouldn’t be easy to burn!!

“It wouldn’t look good to have the castle soldiers only appear there though…… If you do not dispatch them in the other three locations──”

“Don’t bring that up now; dispatch them in mass!!!”

In response to Cyrus’s protest, the veins on Triton’s head bulged as he yelled. Panicked by the threatening atmosphere, Cyrus tripped over himself as he quickly left the room to carry out the orders.

In order to quench his throat after raving so much, the short on breath Triton grabbed a pitcher of water next to his bed and started to gulp it down.

“……Fortunately the delivery date had been postponed. Worst case we will simply have to deliver what we have on hand to eastern Lebrun as a reimbursement for their order……”

Speaking those words in disgust, marquis Triton rubbed his forehead to suppress the headache he got from thinking up the later correspondence.

Arc POV

Many smoke pillars could be seen rising above Diento from the bank of the Rydell river, and I watched as they clouded the night sky.

Strange──, the kidnappers’ base was in the red-light district close to the east gate. I’d understand if the fire spread in that area, but why were there so many fires popping up around the city?

“Ariane-dono, did your collaborators set the city on fire?

It’s possible that members of Ariane’s group were using this as a cover for the rescue operation. However, with an unpleasant expression she denied the accusation.

“I don’t know. Only Danka and I should have been in the city. Those fires were caused by something else. In any case, it’s an unexpected event that perfectly covers our infiltration. We can also take advantage of this confusion to infiltrate the castle as well.

It didn’t seem like she was telling a lie. And it is a good opportunity like she said. With fires sprouting up in so many places, a lot of people most have been dispatched from the castle to extinguish them.

No, if the underground organization I was connected to was threatened, the first thing I would do is dispatch my troops. With the castle’s lowered security, now would be the best time to search it.

“Well, the number guards will be insufficient if the soldiers from the castle were dispatched. Assuming we take this opportunity to slip inside the lord’s castle……”

That moment Ariane licked her sexy full lips and gave a fearless laugh, before she laid her sight on the earnest expression sporting Danka.

“Danka, could you keep an eye on the kids. If I’m not mistaken, the nearest village is a day away if we go upstream and enter the large forest right?”

“That’s about right. At the the upper reach of the river, there is a fulcrum with the Riburuto river. I will wait for you there.

“Please do. Arc, start removing the magic eating collars.”

“Yes”

While Ariane encouraged the elven girls to stand in front of her, I approached one of them and slowly placed my hand of the collar, so that I didn’t frighten her.

“【Anti-curse】”

When the magic formation formed and sunk into the collar, it made the same clear snipping sound as last time before opening and falling off.

Although the other girls were surprised, they came over to be with looks of expectation.

Nodding, I use 【Anti-curse】on each of the girls and destroy the remaining collars. After each of the collars were destroyed, the girls offered me their words of gratitude.

“He really is capable of curse removal magic……”

Danka also quietly voiced his surprise.

“Let’s quickly head to the feudal lord’s castle!”

I feel a gentle tap on the shoulder of my armor, as she vehemently yelled and stared in the direction of Diento’s lord’s castle. That was the signal to transfer to the castle.

When I give a small nod, Ponta who was around my neck let out a cry that said she was ready to go.

I first moved to the other side of the river using 【Dimensional step】. The sound of the alarm bells became louder after we moved closer to the city.

Since the the south side of the wall faced the river there were no homes built within the outer wall, meaning that there were no witnesses to what was happening.

Since it was so late at night, there weren’t many guards on top of the outer wall either, only a few sentries were sparsely place along the wall.

In a matter of seconds, I used 【Dimensional step】 to transfer to the top of the outer wall and then to the inner wall that was visible from there.

Unlike the the outer wall, that separates the wilderness from the city, there were no sentries placed on the inner wall. Was the purpose of this wall to defend the city in case of siege warfare?

Still, to be safe I crouch down and observable the situation in town through one of gaps in the wall's railing.

Smoke was coming from all over the city, there were maybe four points of origin? The four fires most have gone off simultaneously as it would be impossible for them to have been set off leisurely given the timing.

After concealing her dark elf body with her gray cloak, Ariane glared at me with her golden eyes, insisting that I transfer to the next location.

Since her lilac skin was covered by her cloak that melted into the darkness, only her golden eyes could be seen from within, it was like she was some conductor of some kind of galactic express. Though the body on the inside is a dynamite one though……

I look at the raised castle of the feudal lord that stood at the center from the gap in the railing. The castle, which was dimly lit by moonlight, was a great distance away from here. The foot of the castle was rested within its own large shadow, and the outskirts of the building were swallowed by darkness.

Ariane was still glaring at me from behind, but it was not like I was staring out at the city without a propose. It seemed that I won't be able to merely transfer near the castle.

I first thought that the feudal lord's castle was built with a mechanism that obstructed magic, but really it was just a matter of finding a suitable transfer destination. This magic doesn't seem to be usable in utter darkness.

Since the castle's roof was illuminated by the moonlight I set the transfer location there and invoke 【Dimensional Step】 without a hitch.

The city was built atop a hill and the castle was placed at the highest point of the city; there was nothing obscuring the view of the area up here. It was a great view. I would like to experience this view during the day if possible.

Ariane was surprised when we suddenly transferred to the roof, and she late out a small yelp as she tried to regain her balance.

"Ya! Hey don't suddenly transfer to the roof without warning?! If you're going to move to an unstable foothold say so before hand."

"Ah, I did something foolish."

Ponta, suddenly moved to the top of my helmet and let out a growl in protest of my treatment, causing Ariane to apologize. Since Ponta settled the matter, I'll buy her some grapes when this is over.

As expected, we were able to watch all the activity of the castle from the roof, without anyone being aware of us.

The feudal lord’s castle wasn’t very elegant in appearance; looking more like a fort than anything else. In addition to the two walls that surrounded the castle, there was as a moat, making it hard to invade.

In between the walls and the castle, there was a large garden in the front, and the rest of the space was filled with a large barracks and an empty training field.

The castle was composed of six outer towers, connected to the central structure by small corridors.

From atop one the six towers that we were standing on, it was possible to view over the entire city.

The only way for enemies to spot us is if they randomly decided to look up, but there was no way to search for the elves.

The tower we were on right now was a lookout tower, that can act as a grain storage or various other uses if the f0rt was ever under siege. There seems to be facilities for accommodating captives and criminals underground, now where would I place high-end elven slaves?

“Araine-dono. I hesitate to ask, but what type of treatment do elven slaves receive?”

“…… is that question really relevant now?”

She glared at me with her golden eyes from the depth of her cloak with an openly displeased expression.

“The kind of treatment they receive, I think will make it easier to Identify their location……”

Upon hearing my intentions, she replied with disgust after a while.

“In the case of the woman, they often become playthings……, the men are made to to fornicate with noble women to produce children.”

“When I looked over the sells contracts, why was the cost of the males higher? Does it have something to do with them fornicating with noble women?”

“When a mixed raced child is born, it will inherit the race of of its mother right?”

Mixed raced children took after their mothers……, that’s another thing I didn’t know, but I chime in to prompt her to make her point.

“A human child is thereby born with the high magical power that is the characteristic of the elves…… The human nobles have many people with high magical aptitude, that were taken from elves in the days of old. Ah, those human still aren’t able use spirit magic though──”

I see, in order to survive in this world overrun with monsters, the humans had to become better at handling magic, so they forcibly took the power from the elves.

Then it’s the nobles that are mostly capable of magic…… Only financial and military might hold power in this world. Why would those of this country allow the beings called elves run free when they can strengthen their own military might?

This world is built upon feudalism, so it’s unlikely that human rights are respected.

So with the mindset of a man in power――――, the whereabouts of the missing elves should be decided by that.

If I was connected to the to the captives sexually I would not keep them in the regular prisons, so we should probably check around were the feudal lord sleeps?

There were a few soldiers routinely patrolling the the grounds. Whether or not this minimal amount was the result of the fires that broke out in town is unknown, but I’m still grateful for this situation.

“I’m about to transfer to the main building of the castle.”

When Ariana placed her hand on my shoulder and gave an affirmative, I transferred us from the top of the tower to a bush next to the main residence.

Glass was fitted into the window frame, and you were able to see inside the residence. I confirm that there were no human shadows in the corridor before I transfer inside it. The view from this side is not the same from the outside of the window.

The corridor was wider along the side of the residence it was connected to, and it was filled with various furnishings.

Ariane silently walks up to one of the corridor’s doors, and quickly checked the room behind it.

She give me the “Follow me” gesture before entering the room. The room had a parquet wooden floor, a polished wooden table surrounded by chairs, and at the back hung a large tapestry. Based on the room’s atmosphere it was probably a waiting room. The interior was dimly light, and outlook was bleak.

Directly across from us was another door, which Ariane opened and scouted out the area beyond it.

When I saw the building from the roof of the tower it don’t look anything impressive, but it seemed rather large from the inside. Was there an underground dungeon here after all?

Ariane calmly opened the door the rest of the way and then left. I followed her out of the waiting room.

This corridor was only half the width of the previous one, doors lined both sides, and there were small pictures between each door.

Farther down, the corridor curves to the left making it impossible to see beyond the turn. I transfer to the edge of it and peek around.

At some point the hallway came to a dead end, with a barred wooden door at the center of the wall, and a guard dozing off in his chair in front of it. Unlike the the previous ones, the barred door was gave off a strange vibe.

When I transfer to the side of the sleeping guard’s side I grab his head and twist it. A sickening sound rings throughout the L shape hall as I kept the now limp body from hitting the floor.

I ripped the key from the dead guard’s waist and slide it into the door’s keyhole.

When I hear the sound of the shutters turning I slowly open the door; the room was perfectly square that wasn't too wide, and there as a staircase leading underground.

We were on the first floor of the building and the stairs led to the basement. Since there was a guard I was able to find a clue.

I called out to Ariane, who had been searching the the other rooms till now.

"Araine-dono"

In spite the quietness of my voice, Ariane appeared in an instant, proving the excellence of the elves' hearing.

She nodded when I inclined my head towards the square room and followed behind shortly after. After checking the stairs in the room, she proceeds to descend them.

As if she were a ninja, she soundlessly decided the stairs despite them being made of wood. I used transfer to follow behind her Indian martial arts movements. My metal armor made it impossible to imitate her stealthy movements.

"Gufu!! Ga!"

I heard the groans of a man from the basement, before something hit the floor and things went quiet. A guard probably had been stationed below.

Various lamps around the camber acted as the only source of light in this basement, and three iron reinforced doors lined the stone wall to the right. Since the doors were windowless, we could not tell what was on the other side of them.

"My name is Ariane Glenys Maple. Are any of my brethren here?!"

When Ariane pounded on the door and announced herself, there was an immediate answer from the other side.

"A warrior from Maple?! Help has come!!"

"Thank goodness! I'd like to leave as soon as possible 〜!! Please〜!"

It seems that warriors from Maple were synonymous with the best among the elves. Relief and delight could be heard from the voice on the other side of the door.

In order to free them, Ariana searched the body of the fallen guard but didn't seem to find anything.

"The key isn't here! Where is it!?"

Irritation was mixed into her voice, and all of a sudden the answer came from the other side of the door.

"The feudal lord has the key. Thanks to the magic eating collars we can't use spirit magic to break down the door."

I see, it is not necessary for the guard to have a key to the cells. There would be no need for the key of the door could easily be broken down with spirit magic.

"Step back from the door."

Pausing for a moment after saying so, once I was sure that the person moved away, I

delivered a powerful kick to the iron reinforced door.

「Bakiin!」When I heard that loud sound, the door remarkably fought off its hinges. With my current strength, bending the cell bars to escape might even be possible.

On the other side of the door was a slender fair-skinned woman with a exasperated expression on her face. She had the blonde hair, green eyes and long ears of the elves; though only a thin piece of cloth covered her delicate frame. Gazing a little lower, I caught sight of the modest bud of her chest. Dropping my view even farther, I noticed that her wrist were bound with simple wooden shackles.

It was probably done to discourage them from trying to escape. Since the elves' bodies weren't built with a lot of muscle, this would still be effective enough.

Leaving the shackles to Ariane I open the other door in the same way, and a similar looking women appeared beyond the frame. However, the women from before had long hair while this woman's hair was cut short.

"Who's that person over there in the knight armor?"

The short haired women asked Ariane that question while looking in my direction. The elves must not have people that are equipped in full body armor. Suspicious looks were passed my way.

"He's a helper that I employed for this rescue mission. It maybe hard to believe, but you don't need to worry because he is a reliable person." //Silver: In other words he's done enough shit to be taken down with us if we're caught.//

She gave a wryly smile as she said that and asked me to remove the magic eating collars from the two people.

I lightly nod before casting 【Anti-curse】on the two, and with the familiar snapping sound the collars fall to the floor.

"…… Surprising…… To commission someone capable of removing curses without a chant……"

The long haired woman said the same thing Danka muttered, while she rubbed her neck to verify that this was real.

"That's my general purpose. After we escape from here and join with the others, will the plan be complete──?"

In the middle of proposing our next action, a objection was given by the two former captives.

"Wait! I'm sorry for causing you trouble after freeing us, but that pig of a feudal lord and the people of Rhoden need to be taught a lesson!"

"Yeah〜! I've been imprisoned here for four years! My mind will never be at ease if I don't dispose of that pig with my own hands〜!"

The two state their claims in Ariane's direction, and plead with their eyes for our next action. She looks to have thought it over a little before she turned and replied to the women.

“Okay. To prevent future sorrows, it’s wise to end the feudal lord whose the root of this evil now. Where is the lord?”

Urged on by the fact that the assassination of the lord was accepted, the two hopped over the fallen body as they made their way to the stairs. Despite the two only wearing thin over shirts, they quickly ran up to the first floor, with Ariane following close behind.

The lord’s assassination seems to have immediately put into action. While I wanted to avoid drawing attention to myself with flashy actions, I couldn’t simply ignore the intentions of the requester in this situation.

Since it was ostensibly the elves’ retribution, in order not to be conspicuous it’s better to take part in this criminal act.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 21

Chapter 21

Translator: Silver Unedited

「Assault on Diento's Lord」 Part 2

Author's note:

I softened Ariane's attitude and some of her mannerisms. Arc's behavior has also been revised.

I transferred to the first floor and chased after the three elven women. Leaving the stair room, they made a beet for the room at the end of the hall and appeared in the middle of the main hallway.

A large central stairway extended to the second floor from the main entrance, and stairs to the third floor seem to be on both sides of the second floor overlooking everything. At the top of the central stairway, a portrait of a man with grey hair and a protruding stomach decorated the wall. In the center of the room hung a large chandelier, and the diversity of the expensive furniture displayed here showed the power of the master of this place.

"The feudal lord's bedroom is on the third floor. Still for no one to be watching the hall…… It's strange〜?"

The short-haired former captive elf murmured that as she glanced around the main hall before a flame formed in her right hand. She would probably shoot the spirit magic at any on duty guards.

"The staff is spread thin do to the fires in town……"

I voiced my opinion after I caught up with them in the central hall. The hall's floor was made of polished marble and made quite a sound when I walked on it in my armor, so I unintentionally stop.

"That's convenient! Let's hunt down that pig immediately!!"

The long haired elf let out a fearless laugh as a unnatural gale filled the room and quietly jumps into the air. Ponta let out a call as the woman's fabric cloth fluttered in the wind as she landed on the second floor.

She must be a wind manipulator like Ponta.

The other two quickly run after her as they headed towards the third floor stairway.

"Kyun Kyun!"

Since Ponta was in a fit atop my head, I used 【Dimensional Step】to move in front of the third floors stairway.

When I reached the third floor I heard men and women screaming as a the sounds of battle

rang out in the depths of the hall.

With a 「Doon」 sound, I saw servant women coming from the depth of the hall that was decorated with ornamental armors clad in a ordained mantles.

They were probably the eyewitnesses to tonight's events. If their testimony says that a suspicious knight was here it will be difficult to move about in the future.

Telecommunications haven't been created yet and many men wear armor in the city, so they testimony probably wouldn't do much, but I should still be careful here.

When I saw one of the half naked servant women getting close, I moved to the side and pretended to be one of the ornamental armor suits. Ponta, who was a top my head, read the mood and didn't move an inch. From the side Ponta's thick far should pass as the plumage often seen on roman helmets. While I was thinking about such trivial matters, another servant dashed out of the room.

The once luxurious double doors were now mercilessly battered and what seemed to be the bodies of the guards were scattered about. Here and there I could see the missing limbs of these poor souls scattered about.

Stepping beyond the doorway, I found myself in a bedroom of considerable size. Even with my untrained eye I can see that articles in this room were all expensive, from the beautiful sculptures to the canopy with a large bed inside.

The whole room was filled with crystal-like objects on candlesticks, that illuminated the room like fluorescent lights.

At the back of the room, a portrait similar to the one in the hall was hung, in front of it was a pitiful man with his lower body fully exposed and a knife in his hands.

The long-haired elf kicked the exposed lower half of the man with all her might.

"Gyaahiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!!!!"

The man screaming like it was the end of the world was probably the lord; while this body was only made of bones the joints of my hips trembled.

The feudal lord didn't even fall as he held the insides of his thighs, covered in sweat and gasping for air, he desperately yelled out in a strained voice.

"You……! D-Do you think that you can do something l-like this to me and get away with it!! I am a marquis of this country!! This me before your eyes i-i-i――――"

To the feudal that endured the pain between his thighs, Ariane removed the hood of her cloak and looked down upon him as filth.

The lilac skin that had beed hidden became visible, her snow white hair was disheveled, and the room's crystal provided lighting made it look like she was slightly blushing. The atmosphere around her was chilling as she took a step forward.

"Are you perhaps misunderstanding something? Even if you're killed here, this country is in no position to retaliate against the elven country of Canada. Therefore, for breaking the Rhoden's treaty…… Disappear."

When she command it in a blood chilling tone, she stuffs a piece of a torn sheet in the

marquis's mouth, and turns back and nods at the two elves that had been releasing magic power behind her.

The two leap at the marquis immediately; only muffled screams could be heard in the room as blood sprayed within the vicinity. I felt like I was watching a scene from a gangsta drama. No matter how high this body's abilities are it would be best not to provoke them……

While trying to escape the brutal reality of the room, I came upon a solid door that was sealed shut with a strong looking lock.

The beautifully engraved lock was enough to create curiosity about what was on the other side of the door.

I draw my sword from my waist and slashed at the door. The lock to keep out intruders was useless as the door was as easily cut diagonally as a piece of paper cut by scissors.

After I tore what remained of the door off its hinges, I advanced inside to find expensive looking furniture and artworks crammed in the room; at first glance it seemed like items I would have no use for were randomly thrown in here.

The were several wooden crates in the back, and when I opened them I found that they were stuffed with leather bags filled with gold coins.

What is it about gold that never fails to charm people? I felt like I had an unintentional grin on my face when I found this treasure. Though there were no facial muscles to grin with……

As you'd expect it would be difficult to take all of the gold coins now, but I could take quite a bit of them if I repack some of the leather bags.

Like she said before, the way in which I acquire wealth is indeed dubious. Thought nothing rude can be said about stealing from here.

At least I think so as I promptly throw bags of gold into my sack. Since its really gold, my luggage sack might tear if I'm too greedy. While I was searching for more gold coins with a overjoyed expression, one sword displayed on the wall caught my attention.

There was a faint mottle above the blade and the sword itself gave off a faint silver luster. The halt was in the shape of a lion's head that had red jewels for eyes.

Where have I seen that sword before――――

Ah, it was a sword I've seen in the game. It was a masterpiece grade item given out for completing an achievement call 『Sword of the Lion King』. If I'm right, it's a weapon that raises base speed and attack. Thought I don't know if those effects are applied in this world or not……

I'll take this as well, if I left it here it would only gather dust.

I thought so as I took the sword. While I was storing away the gold coins in my bag, the bedrooms seemed to have become lively.

"There's a thief on the premises!!! A thief ahhhhh!!"

"Someone set them fre- Gyaaa!!"

From the sound of the footsteps guards must be entering the bedroom one after another, and I could hear the sound of metal clashing. The sound of men screaming also echoed behind the occasional explosion.

After a particularly loud explosion the entire castle shock, a「para para」sound could be heard as something collapsed, after which the sounds of something burning could be heard.

The castle must have caught fire.

Then a person entered the room and called out to me with a look of disgust on their face.

“What are you doing?”

Her gray cloak flutters as she folds her arms. Her ample twin hills could be seen from the top of her corset-shaped leather armor, and they were even more pronounced with her arms crossed.

I probably looked like a thief in the middle of filling up his leather bag with gold coins before taking off to her. If I had a green cover over my head the image would be perfect.

I could probably pass for Santa if a fireplace was nearby, but there was a savior lack of fireplaces.

“It cost money to unexpectedly have to rebuild an organization.”

“?”

The two elves showed up once they were finished, and stood behind her with dubious expressions as I spoke.

“If I intended to re-launch a kidnapping organization, it couldn’t be reconstructed without the necessary funds. We can greatly hinder the opposition by taking away a large amount of money and property here.”

While I was only blinded by the gold coins, I was able to come up with a plausible excuse to tell her. What I said shouldn’t necessarily be wrong……

When Ariane glanced back at the two elves, they both nodded as if in agreement and began to fill a leather bag with gold coins. Ariane also started to randomly throw gold coins into a bag.

“Still, carrying such heavy gold coins over our shoulders…… This in more than three time my weight……that’s……”

“Even if you have a good plan, isn’t it a serious problem trying to escape with with these heavy things over our shoulders?”

“Um〜〜, Heavy〜”

The three of them looked ridiculous with the big leather bags over their shoulders.

“It’s okay, he can use transfer magic. We don’t have any more business here, so let’s go.”

“Uh?! Huh!? Isn’t it just a legend that a single person can use transfer magic?!”

“Um〜〜, A single person would lack the mental discipline and mana〜”

While they were in the middle of that exchanged the lower floor became noisy again. We weren’t allowed to be leisurely in our escape for this place.

Most of the remaining gold coins had been gathered by the three of them, so there was indeed no more business here.

“【Transfer Gate】!”

The magic circle formed on the floor and started to emit light in the room. In the next moment, the surroundings shifted in an instant and we were transferred downstream from Diento.

“The escape was successful. That transfer magic sure in convenient, I wonder if I could learn it……”

“Eh?!! This is a lie!? That was really transfer magic?!”

“Oh〜〜, I’m tired〜. Where are we?”

The three of them were looking around and even I’m surprised about where we ended up. Everything that was within the magic circle seems to have been transferred along with us.

The artwork and furniture that was around the room a while ago were all sitting on the grass.

The smoke from the fires still rose from Diento, and it seems to have increased. I did remember the sound of fire spreading in the feudal lord’s castle……

“So, I take it that all the requirement for the request have been mate?”

Ariane stopped gazing over the river and looked in my direction; she took out five elven gold coins and tossed them at me with a fearless laugh.

“You really saved us this time. Here’s your reward as promised. Thought the gold coins we stole are more valuable……”

I say “Anytime” as I catch the coins with one hand and put them in the leather bag tied to my waist.

“Arc, I’m heading to the closest village 『Raratolaia』 would you mind meeting the elders?

Lowering the bag of gold coins from her shoulder, Ariane asked me that question with a serious expression.

I personally wanted to see the elf village. However, I would like to be excused from meeting the elders.

“Hmm, I would like to go to the elf village…… Do I have to meet with the elders?”

“That’s expected. In order invite an outsider, I first have to request it from the elders. And to be honest, I would like to continue to use your powers in the future…… I would like to introduce you to one of the elders to gain their trust. Why?”

The two elves beside Ariane were surprised, yet the waited quietly as she made her proposal.

“I cannot take off this armor…… No, you say you want to give me your trust, so I will stop lying――――. I don’t want to take off this armor.”

“For a meeting with the elders, you’d have to take it off to show your face…… Is that a problem?”

I answer her question with silence.

“May I hear your reason?”

It’s hard to answer when asked my reason. I personally don’t want to lie to her too much. However she may not understand even if I told her the truth.

“When I take off my helmet, Ariane promise me that you don’t point your sword a me――”

“If I promise not to rise my swords will you show your face?”

Her golden eyes never leave my visage. There it is after the deluge. I can use their reactions to my exposed figure as a guideline for my future actions.

When I move my hand to take off my helmet, Ponta skillfully jumped from my head to my shoulder.

I remove my helmet and faced them.

――――― They all had a surprised looked on their faces.

A skeleton in armor stood before their eyes, with the pale flame of the dead flattering in its eye sockets.

The elves on the side immediately took action as a surge of magical power flew out of their bodies.

However, Ariane stood in front of them and grabbed their hands to control them.

“Arc……, You, is that your…… body?”

Though she was surprised she tried to keep it out of her voice, but she still asked in a hesitate tone.

Even if I say that this was the appearance of a game character and that I was throw into this world with it, they would not understand that.

“I don’t know……, l just know I was thrown into this country with this cursed body……

“Isn’t that person an undead?!”

“That undead in the armor is frighteningly strong〜!”

The two elves scowl without breaking their stances, and Ariane fixed her eyes on them and spoke to them with a calm expression.

“Look closely. He doesn’t carry the pollution of the dead…… A spirit beast would never take to an undead tainted by the pollution of death. Could an undead use healing magic?”

The two elves were gradually confused by her words.

“T-That? That’s a fluffy fox on his shoulder…… a spirit beast. Oh? What is this??”

“The undead use the cursed power of darkness, it’s impossible to use the purifying power

of light magic right〜?”

Ariane was the only one laughing at their confusion.

“Arc used his power to help our brethren…… He did not have to reveal his body’s secret. Depending on the type of curse it is, the elders may have some insight on it.”

I’m thankful for that. Anyhow, even though two barely clothed elven women are standing before me, it was saddening as a man that there was no reaction from my crotch.

No, this isn’t a place to crack jokes……

“I’m truly thankful. If the curse on my body can be removed it would be truly wonderful.”

Giving such a response, I put my helmet on again.

I still wonder why I choose a skeleton avatar, but it was too late to regret my past actions now.

“I’ll introduce myself once more. My name is Ariane Glenys Maple. A warrior of the Canadian forest from Maple.”

She held out her right hand while saying so. I grasped it back.

“Arc. I’m travelling to remove this curse from my body.”

When I said it, my future goal had been decided.

It was set within my mind, traveling to break my curse, though it’s likely to be an unachievable feat.

“Then let’s go meet Danka upstream!”

She laughed as she placed one of the bags of gold coins over her shoulder. I picked up some of the heavier bags as well and gaze out at the forest as it connected with the river upstream.

Without day even breaking, under the glow of the moonlight, for the first time my path has been decided.

――― Then shall we sit off?

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Chapter 22

Epilogue

「Epilogue」

In the plans overlooking the Calcutta mountain range, the abundant quantity of the Rydell river was flowing east of the wind dragon mountain range.

The Rhoden kingdom imperial capital stood in such a place. The imperial capital was a four wall layered city that had been build with the imperial palace at the center.

The population was three times the size of the major fort city Diento, easily surpassing 50,000 people.

A massive wheat field expanded outside the city walls, and thanks to the the major highways going in the cardinal directions not only are goods produced in the capital but they flow in from all over the country as well.

Though the Rhoden kingdoms proudly holds the position of the third largest power on the continent, it’s not a country ruled solely by one empire like the Leburan empire in the Northern Midwest.

It was a country formed by the gathering of many nobles and feudal lords, with the Olav royal family at the center. Therefore, even though the royals established the policies of the kingdom, they could not recklessly interfere with the territories under heavy control of the feudal lords.

The power of the royal family surpassed any one lord, but it is of no match to all of the lords’ combined might.

However, the royal family can intervene with military force if the actions of a feudal lord are a threat to the kingdom. Weather it be an invasion from other countries or a feudal lord rebellion, they are often situations stopped without the aid of the kingdom’s other lords.

In the imperial capital Olav, the assassination of the marquis of Diento was being discussed in the royal court held inside the palace. Many rumors and much speculation was being shared between the nobles present for the case.

In a certain room that belonged to second prince Douglass Shishle Carunon Rhoden Vetoran, two men were having a discussion.

Behind the two people sitting down stood another person. There was no else besides these three, not even servants, within the room.

The person that stood wasn’t that tall, but they had a well trained body and pleasing features. Their blue eyes were partially hidden by golden hair, they wore a easy to move in military uniform, and golden decorative pieces that only nobles could have adorned his clothes.

He was Douglass the Olav royal family’s second prince.

“Fuck! The largest source of our factions income has been destroyed!”

Prince Douglass's regular features were twisted as he spit out those words.

The large man sitting down gravely nods in agreement.

The man's hair was a blend of grey and brown and he sported a respectable beard, but one could not sense any old age from him only masculinity.

This elderly man was one of the seven dukes of the country, the head of the Olsterio family and major general of the unified national army, Duke Marudoira De Olsterio.

The dukes are the highest ranking nobles in the country that supported the royal family, but they don't possess their own territory, so they take out a salary from the tax of the domestic lords and from the king's territory. On the other hand, they were at the center of power as they carried out important tasks for the kingdom.

"On this matter, the eldest son of marquis Diento who'd been staying in the capital, Hebron, has been attributed the territory by his majesty. With the assassination of the former head and the second son having disappeared, It may take a considerable amount of time for Hebron to settle things down even with his ability……"

Major general Marudoira spoke on the matter with a bitter look on his face.

"According to the witness testimony elves were present……, This affair, could it be their retaliation?"

To be honest I don't understand. The day that elves were claim to being present, three slave dealerships were hit with a surprise attack. More than twenty beast men escaped, and people say it was the work of the 'Emancipators'."

"The 'Emancipators' one purpose is to free beastmen slaves correct? The members should all be beastmen……, did they partner with the elves?"

"It is also certain that…… This could be a deception so that it looked as such. In order to strengthen the crown princess's faction, by presenting the crime of capturing the elves in Diento in front of the king. Her highness Juliana has aggressively been appealing for harmony with the elves, if our actions are revealed to his majesty then they can be seen as acts of treason, and his highness's power would be crippled. The order to silence the servants that witnessed the event has been given, but the whereabouts of one of them is already unknown. It's possible that they are already being sheltered by one of the other factions…… The funds that were to be sent from Diento have disappeared as well, and elves normally show little interest in such valuable things. It should not have been an amount that the number of elves reported could have been able to take anyway……"

Prince Douglass grimaced at those words.

If these matters became public, then it's possible a large gap could form between him and prince Sect and princess Juliana in the race for the throne.

No, three of the dukes have already joined prince Sect faction, and he has the support of western Leburan empire as well.

It was evident that the throne was greatly inclined towards the Sect faction.

As Major general Marudoira had said, Douglass could only see this event as someone's stratagem against him.

For better or worse Juliana tends to be honest, so it was unlikely that she would steal money under the guise of an elf surprise attack.

However, his older half-brother prince Sect was the type of person that could step on someone's foot with a straight face.

"We have to act before Sect makes a move. Setorion, gather some useful pieces for Hoben."

"As you command."

The man in his 30s that was in a military uniform similar to Marudoira's who'd had been silent till now, lowered his head respectfully upon receiving Douglass's instructions.

He was the eldest son of Duke Olsterio and one of the country's three generals, Setorion De Olsterio.

As expected of parent and child, his features were that of a young Marudoira.

In the eyes of prince Douglass, the flames of dark hatred arose as he thought of his brother's figure, after he nodded at Setorion's response.

At the same time, three people were gathered in the private room of Rhoden's first prince Sect Rondaro Carunon Rhoden.

In an engraved amber colored chair with a first class cushion embroiled with a flower pattern, a nobleman was deeply sitting back in it.

He was the master of this room prince Sect. He had a tall figure, light brown hair, and was adorned in luxurious clothes made specifically for him.

Next to prince Sect was a beautiful women with long brown hair neatly tied up and features similar to Sect's, thought she gave off a different impression thanks to the thick amount of makeup applied to her face. Her body was wrapped in a luxurious dress that had an emphasized wide skirt .

This was Prince Sect's Mother, Letitia Rhoden Sadi the second queen.

"This affair seems to have caused his highness Douglass to move, Rondaru aren't you going to act?"

The second queen Letitia, questioned her son Sect using his childhood name.

Only extremely close friends and relatives can address the members of the royal family by their childhood names, if someone else were to does so then it would be less majestic.

"Mother, Douglass is now carrying out clean up. Though they seem to want to cover it up, it's obvious that a great deal of funds have been lost along with marquis Diento. That person is just stalling for time. It don't matter if they're left alone."

At prince Sect's words, the other person within the room that had been silent till now nodded before he began to speak.

"With all due respect, the only one aggressively moving now is princess Juliana. When the princess makes this latest matter know, then your highness Sect's position will be in

danger as well……”

Only a snobbish atmosphere came from the man dressed as a clergyman and had a fake smile plastered on his face. This little man was a bishop of the religious Hiruku county and was staying in the capital on the grounds of conducting missionary work.

“…… Well, Juliana is popular with the citizens of the capital. Using this breakthrough as a foothold, the dukes that have been calmly watching from the sideline may be inclined to join the other side…… There movements need to be investigated before hand……, Borane. Have those talented in magic been gathered?”

“! Everything is prepared! By the will of our great god, I bless you your highness. It brings or believers great joy in taking part in the princess’s demise, prince Sect.”

The small man called Borane over exaggerated his joy on the matter.

While it was forbidden to laugh a princess, Borane didn’t receive any repercussions from prince Sect.

“Borane, you and I have a good relationship. There’s no need to be so formal, you’re allowed to call me Rondaru in private.”

After a moment Bishop Borane’s lips twisted, as he politely expressed his gratitude.

“My sincerest gratitude for bestowing such an honor to me prince Rondaru. There are preparations to make in order to clear away your highness’s fears, so I’ll take my leave here.”

Although his feelings of joy clearly overflowed from his body as he bowed and left, the second queen let out a sigh once she saw Borane was gone.

“Was it alright to say such a thing Rondaru? Won’t things become annoying after princess Juliana is eliminated?”

“It doesn’t matter. That person flying between me and Douglass only goal is to see the elimination of princess Juliana. Juliana is the ringleader of those that are advising father not to allow the perpetration of Hiruku’s religion. After I help with Juliana’s removal her connections and private soldiers with disappear as well. This country’s current temple based religion’s power is not that great, embracing Hiruku’s religion will ignite a new source of strength within it. ”

“I see. Having the temple devotees chased out of the country by the newly admitted Hiruku religion will increase the population as their followers will flow in behind them. It’s rumored that the emperor of the Lebrun alienating the Hiruku pope, aren’t you receiving their backing?”

“That’s right. Giving the cold shoulder to the western Leburan empire is a bad Idea as they control the southern topic ports, so it’s a bad move to be connected with a neglected religious country. First let’s investigate Juliana’s movements…… I’ll exploit this matter as an opportunity to remove Douglass, then remove the leaders of Diento and make it into my own territory.”

Sect laughed ironically as he said that, then gulped down the now cooled tea, before calling a subordinate forward and arranging future preparations.

While the removal of princess Juliana was underway, the very person was sitting inside another room of the palace, looking out over the courtyard and drinking tea.

Despite her calm atmosphere, if one looked at her dress they'd find that the clothed used was flawlessly embroidered, and that the person herself carried great enthusiasm in her eyes. //**Not to sure on this one**// She was the second princess of the county Juliana Marill Melissa Rhoden Olav.

She played with a loose lock of her long blonde hair, and with a displeased look that didn't match her lovely brown eyes, she turned to the man sitting besides her.

"I almost thought I caught older brother Douglass by the tail. Although there is a secret investigation into the lord Diento, for him to be assassinated……, is it possible that Douglass caught wind of it and did this to destroy evidence?"

The man princess Juliana asked was in the prime of his life as he sat in a chair with good posture and wearing a general's military uniform.

He was one of the Rhoden's three generals, Carton De Furivutoran and he hesitated a little at the princess's question.

"No princess. Not only was he one of prince Douglass's factions major funders, he was an influential supporter, so subjugating marquis Diento wouldn't have been a wise decision. As for the witnesses, even though we acted immediately, we were only able to secure one person who's now in our protection. We promptly sent the witness to the Rinburoto arch dukedom……"

At his words princess Juliana's eyebrows rose up as she made a difficult expression.

"According to the report, it was elves that attacked the castle, could it've been retribution for the elf kidnappings? However, the slave dealers downtown were also attacked and the beastmen were freed as well……, have they allied with each other? Diento was said to be a solid fort, was a successful raid really carried out with only a few elven warriors?"

The princess was staring at the cup on the table as steam rose from it, and it was clear that she was thinking to herself rather than expecting a actual response.

"The relationship between the the elves and the beastmen isn't especially inharmonious, that in it of itself is enough for the story to be possible……, but it's still should have been rather difficult to infiltrate without a guild. Mysteriously the amassed funds were all taken and the castle was partially destroyed by the fire, yet only a few elves were reported to have been seen……, so it's possible that looters came after the fire was put out."

"In any case, the people in possession of elves will probably be fearful because of this incident. It was an unceremonious retaliation against a solid fortress. In this situation, proper trade with the elves of the large forest has become farther away…… Stupid brother, you've done something completely unnecessary! You're going to waste the 400 year treaty before it expires!"

She complained about her older half brother with a big sigh.

"However, Prince Douglass's faction's power has been greatly diminished by this affair.

The nobles drifting here will increase. We have to watch the actions of his highness Sect in the near future.”

“Well, older brother Sect may take this opportunity to joyously split apart bother Douglass’s faction. It’s probably better to properly speak with the elves regarding this situation…… We only have decent trade through the Rinburuto arch dukedom, so we’d need a way to form a direct connection with them.”

After a large shoulder shrug, she picked up the cup of herbal tea and brought it to her lips. The fragrance of the tea tickled the princess’s nose, as she made a pleasant expression while enjoying the tea break.

Her older sister Serena married Tashkent the archduke of Rinburuto.

“I wonder if onee-sama is doing well……”

She said so with a sigh before glancing out the window again.

Thick grey clouds hung in the sky above the capital as rain rapidly started to fall.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter Prologue

「Prologue」

Rhoden Kingdom took pride in being the third most powerful nation on the Hokkaido continent.

The eastern and western Leburan empires touched the northern border, the shoreline connected to the Burugo Gulf in the west, the south lead to the sea and in the east was the Canada forest, which was independent from Rhoden and the home of the elves. In short, the country’s location kept it relatively safe from foreign enemies.

The northern border was connected to both of the Leburan Empires.

The eastern Holy Leburan Empire and the western Great Leburan Empire used to be a single country before it split into two, and now the two are at each others throats, trying to grasp total power on the continent.

The two countries are almost equal in strength, so the struggle for supremacy will be decided by the country that manages to draw Rhoden Kingdom to its side, and because of this the conflict of east vs. west is casting its shadow upon the Rhoden Kingdom.

The eastern Holy Leburan Empire has tropic ports and vast plains in the south, and intends to offer them to Rhoden in exchange for overthrowing the west. While the more legitimate western Great Leburan Empire planned to use Rhoden to eliminate the east.

In addition to that, the struggle for the succession of Rhoden’s throne has also intensified, with the western empire supporting first prince Sect and the eastern holy empire supporting second prince Douglass respectively.

The final faction involved in the bid for the throne was the second princess Juliana who has remained independent from other countries. Instead she has focused her attention to the west, beyond the archduchy of Rinburuto, and seeks to strengthen the bonds between the great Canadian forest and the elves that inhabit it.

The fierce power struggle between these people has split the kingdom’s nobles, and since the shady source that funded the second prince’s faction was shut down due to someone’s machinations, the spheres of influence have greatly shifted in the kingdom.

North of the Calcutta mountain range, a fertile plain opened up, from the east side of the wind dragon mountain range the quantity of water in the Rydell river bolstered as it flowed past the capital into the southern sea.

In a certain room in the imperial palace in the capital city of Olav, a woman accompanied

by her personal maid sat at a waist high table that overlooked the courtyard, together with two other people.

The woman who sat with ladylike conduct, dressed in neat clothes and surrounded by a calm atmosphere while still retaining the cuteness of a young girl, was the second princess of this country, Juliana Meroru Melissa Rhoden Olav.

She had long, dark blonde hair that fell down in loose waves, lovely brown eyes and white, regular features. However, deep within those eyes dwelled the light of a strong-willed individual.

“This time around, I heard that Douglass nii-san and Sect nii-san were interested in the Hoban territory. Officially they’re going to a ball, but in reality they’re just looking into territories around the capital.”

A man in the prime of his life nodded at princess Juliana’s words before chiming in.

This large man wore a General’s uniform, had brown hair that was cut very short and a square jaw that gave off a dignified impression.

This person was the duke that belonged to the princess’ faction, head of the Frivetran household and one of the country’s three generals, Carton De Frivetran.

“That inspection of Hoban reeks of danger. There’s still speculation flying around the court about the previous incident. Some even say that the elven surprise attack was a feint by the faction of his highness Sect, or our own.”

The previously mentioned incident was the assassination of a member of the second prince’s faction, Marquis Diento.

In the Rhoden kingdom, it was prohibited to capture and sell elves, but the former lord of Diento had been suspected of doing just that on the black market, and the affair happened just as princess Juliana had sent a scout to secretly investigate.

At first the witness testimony stated that elves were the ones behind it, but the witnesses suddenly disappeared, which lead to a number of speculations as to who the true culprit was. The purpose of the attack also remained unclear, which in turn lead to even more speculation.

“There is also the simultaneous attack on the slave traders, and how all of Marquis Diento’s savings disappeared on top of that. All the speculation just keeps piling up.”

Princess Juliana shrugged and sighed loudly.

“The whereabouts of the majority of it remains unknown, but a part of it seemed to have been found within the Diento territory. Pieces of expensive furniture were found in the possession of citizens. Everything that was recovered had been found on the open market. If the Diento family wants to recover everything, they’ll have to act quickly before the rest disappears into the darkness.”

The young man sitting next to the general opened his mouth.

He also wore a general’s military uniform, though simplified, was well-mannered and looked strikingly similar to General Carton even though his features were more delicate than the general’s. However, his tone was comparable to General Cartons.

His name was Lendl Do Frivetran. He was the battalion commander of a large military unit, heir of the Frivetran dukedom and General Carton's son.

"Whatever they do, it will take take some time before Marquis Diento's family recovers. With the loss of a major fanatical supporter, his highness Douglass is trying to quell the unrest in his faction… I've also heard that his highness Sect is making overtures toward Duke Brutus."

General Carton stroked his magnificent beard as anxiety over both camps' movements caused his eyebrows to rise and his wrinkles to be more prominent.

While nodding at the General's concerns, princess Juliana spoke of future correspondences.

"A storm is coming…… It may be better to move up our schedule and hasten our visit to Rinburuto. Helen asked to accompany us at that time."

Juliana straightened her back as she stood up and looked in the eyes of her personal maid and close childhood friend Feruna, while speaking of her future schedule.

The maid Feruna gave a little smile, sharpened her gaze, and lowered her head full of beautifully tied up hair.

"I understand, Juliana-sama."

"……Alright. In about five days we will head towards Rinburuto, let's also narrow the number of guards to fifty. We'll leave Lendl in charge of selecting the guards, while I'll select the subordinates we bring along."

The general slapped his son on his shoulder, which broke the enthrallment he had been under after seeing the maid Feruna, causing him to quickly kneel on the spot and lower his head.

"Even if it cost me my life, I'll definitely ensure that your highness has a safe journey!"

"Thank you lord Lendl. If that bishop of the Hiruku religion makes any suspicious moves, please be prepared to neutralize them."

The two lowered their heads again at Juliana's word.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 1

「Onward to Raratoia」part 1

A group was moving through a forest filled with tall and thick-trunked trees, trying not to stumble on the roots covered with moss.

The sky in the east had already started to brighten and little patches of sunlight were seeping through the foliage.

I was carrying three sacks filled with gold coins over my shoulder, and a “clang clang” sound was mixed in with the whispers of the tree leaves.

We were in the center of Canada forest, the home of the elves.

In this world that I was dropped into, I was given the form of my game character, and as I went about in a dizzy I somehow wound up helping the elves in their mission.

Yet, I had not even an ounce of regret for my actions. It’s only natural for a Japanese person to want to help the disadvantaged elves and beastmen in this world.

Probably.

The elven woman walking in front of me was a rare dark elf. She had smooth lilac skin, long white hair, and her ears were shorter than those of normal elves. Her tall frame was wrapped in a leather corset over somber clothes and her limbs overflowed with enough sex appeal to attract the eyes of any man.

Her name was Ariane Glenys Maple. She was one of Maple’s warriors, which was the capital of Canada. A thin sword hung at her waist, and she also possessed strong spirit magic.

Her chest bounced up and down with every step, her buttocks bobbed with every movement, and I had a perfect view from behind… but all of a sudden she stopped and focused her brilliant golden eyes on me.

Somehow, she seemed to have noticed my stare――――

Like I said, the body I got when I came to this world was the same one from the game I had been playing.

My whole body was covered in detailed, white, full-body armor that wouldn’t be unusual for a mythical knight to wear.

A pitch-black mantle fluttered in the wind and the inside of the mantle looked like a starry

night sky.

On my back, I carried a large, heavily engraved round shield and a two-handed sword that emitted a divine aura.

However, inside this suit of armor was only the body of a skeleton.

Therefore, this body had no eyes. Only the pale blue light of the dead existed in my eye sockets.

For her to still be able to sense my stare, the senses of a woman were truly frightening.

While thinking about such things, the voice of two other women was heard from behind.

“I’ve used too much mana. I won’t be able to use spirit magic for a while, would you happen to have a weapon I could borrow?”

“I’m tired〜. I need to take a rest somewhere……”

The two women were covered in a gray and black cloak respectively and were bringing up the rear. They had straight blonde hair with a greenish tint, and the characteristic long ears peeped out between the strands. One’s skin was opposite of the dark elf Ariane’s pale complexion, her name was Senna and she had an overall slender figure and sharp eyes.

The other one had a tender expression that Senna lacked and short cut hair. Her name was Oona.

A short while ago, both of these elven women had been the prisoners of Diento’s feudal lord. Because the two barely had any clothing on, Ariane and I had given them our cloaks so they could cover themselves.

We got a heap of gold coins from the castle of Diento’s lord, and I was carrying all three bags worth of it over my shoulder. Since I had my hands full, the two of them were on guard for the monsters that roamed the forest.

“We’ll reach the river Rydell soon. Once we reach the riverbank we’ll take a break. Afterwards, our destination will be only a little farther upstream.”

When Ariane turned around to inform us, I was able to see the tall cliff which overlooked the riverbed that I had passed by before.

As the wide river came into view, the tree line receded and the surroundings became brighter.

The daylight had was getting stronger, with the morning sun illuminating the forest, and the level of sunlight that penetrated the foliage was gradually increasing.

I lowered the sacks of gold coins on a suitable rock while the other three had found their own places to sit and rest.

It truly was a pleasant place.

The wind blow across the bank of the river and caused leaves to rustle. Mixed in were the cheeping of birds and the occasional cry of a monster; in this place, we calmly spent our time.

Ponta, who had been on my head until now, jumped down to get a drink of water before

she soaked her forepaws in the water and started playing around.

Ponta was a fox-like animal that was about 60cm in length. Though she had the face of a fox, her tail made up half of her body and was the same shape of a cotton ball. However, the form of her legs gave her the impression of a giant flying squirrel. Her soft fur was light green on her back and pure white on her underbelly.

According to the elves, she was a rare animal called a spirit beast and was commonly called a fluffy fox. It was apparently rare for a spirit beast to take to a person, though I seemed to have tamed Ponta smoothly by feeding her, even if that was questionable at best.

When I turned my attention upstream to the riverbank where Ponta was playing, I noticed some huge dragonflies nearby. They were almost two meters long and hovered above the water surface with their tails sticking into the water.

Occasionally, one of the huge dragonflies would raise their tail out of the water with a fish attached and skillfully hold the fish in the air as it began to feast upon it.

“Those are dragonfly. They won’t attack unless you approach them during the breeding season.”

When she noticed me staring, Ariane explained the nature of the huge dragonflies to me. They only attacked in the breeding season, but……

This thick forest seems to have a variety of monsters living in it. In fact, we frequently encountered monsters when we were making our way here.

The three of them repelled them without much difficulty, but Senna seems to have used a considerable amount of mana along the way.

“Senna, use my sword for now own. I still have enough mana left.”

Since Ariane notice that Senna was running low on mana, she took the sword from her waist and handed it to her.

I was looking at this when I remembered something; I hauled one of the sacks filled with gold coins in front of me and rummaged through it. Buried between the gold coins was a single sword.

It was something I found when we infiltrated the feudal lord’s castle to save Senna and Oona. The sword was a masterpiece-grade item, the handle was garnished with the head of a lion that had deep red jewels in place of eyes. The eponymous 『Sword of the Lion King』.

I completely forgot about it when I threw it into the sack.

“Ariane-dono, you could use this if you like.”

Since I was already completely equipped thanks to my knight role-play, I offered the sword to her. She widely opened her eyes when she received the sword.

“Is it okay? This is a very good sword.”

“Hun, I don’t mind. It was gathering dust in the lord’s castle. Besides, I already have this……”

Saying so, I held up my one meter long, two-handed greatsword. What I was showing her was the mythical grade weapon 『Holy Thunder Sword』.

She looked surprised for a moment before she wordlessly unsheathed the sword in her hand to inspect the grip and blade, and once she was finished she nodded before sheathing it again.

“Thank you, Arc. This will be helpful.”

Her full lips lifted into a smile as she thanked me and put the sword on her waist.

“We’ll end our break soon and continue our trek upstream.Arc, can I ask you a favor?”

“Sure. You all should hold onto me while I carry the luggage and transfer us up the river.”

I said this while I was picking up the sacks filled with gold coins I had been sitting next to. Ponta seemed to have noticed what was happening since she used spirit magic to glide from the riverbed to her usual spot atop my helmet.

Confirming that everyone was holding on to me, I focused my attention upstream.

“【Dimensional Step】”

It was a support-magic skill that allowed me to perform short-range teleportation, and in an instant the entire scenery changed. I set the target a while ago, and we now stood at the upper reaches of the river.

“Hum, that’s a convenient spell〜. Why didn’t you use this a while ago when we were in the forest?We could have gotten a lot farther by now〜”

The short-haired elf Oona was muttering this while she was looking at our new surrounding.

The riverbank we had been resting on moments before was now a considerable distance downstream from our current position.

“The range is limited in areas like forests, where the visibility is lacking.”

While the magic was convenient for travel, it can only move to an area that you can visually perceive. The ground of the forest we had just been in was full of undergrowth, cliffs and marshes. One wrong step could have meant the end, so using the skill there was prohibited.

“Is that so… Still, it is really convenient〜”

Oona contently gave that relaxed praise many times as I continued to transfer us upstream.

It didn’t take that long before we arrived at a river fork.

Coming from the northern Wind Dragon Mountains, the river split into two at this location.

It appears that the river splitting off is called the Riburute river.

It was very wide, and judging by the color of the water it was quite deep as well. Since the current seemed to be very strong, you’d normally have the cross it further upstream than this.

The reason we were here was to meet up with the four others elves and their guide before setting out for the elven village Raratoia.

While looking around, I saw the silhouette of people emerging from the trees near the Rydell riverbank.

An elven man in a beige cloak walked out while being cautious of his surroundings, and when they saw us, four elven girls ran straight to us.

The warrior Danka had been with us when we assaulted the kidnappers' base, and had been left to look after the girls.

Since the girls were running at me, I bent to down on one knee to receive them.

At that moment, Ponta jumped from my head and sat on the ground in front of me. The elven girls surrounded Ponta at once.

……Seems like Ponta had all of the popularity.

"You're earlier than expected…… I take it that we're bringing this armored gentleman along?"

Danka asked Ariane the question in a low voice in passing, once he saw me pretending to take a break in order to cover up my kneeling.

"Thanks to his help a disaster was avoided…… There are also some other circumstances the require him to meet with Raratoia's elder."

"……Don't bother the old man too much……"

Danka gave that simple reply to Ariane before he closing his eyes and mouth.

She patted down her white hair and simply said; "I know."

"Then, since there's no time lets proceed. Arc, could you please take us across the river?

With the pat on the shoulder that accompanied the question, I rose to my feet.

Since it's just crossing a river, I can simply use 【Dimensional Step】 to transfer to the other side. While it'd be impossible to take everyone at once, it should be doable in three trips.

First, the four young girls were transferred to the other side and instantly started to diligently move about. Though they fell victim to Ponta's cuteness, they still seemed capable of surviving in the wilderness.

After crossing the river without much difficulty, we plunged into the depths of the forest.

In addition, I was still carrying the sacks of gold coins over my shoulder; everyone besides me was an elf and was more or less capable of using spirit magic, so there was no danger even if a monster appeared while we traveled.

Ponta could also use wind spirit magic, and occasionally flew up to fetch nuts and fruit. Thanks to that we weren't troubled for food and were able to quickly eat while taking breaks along the way……

When the sky was dyed in a deep red and the forest's shadows thickened, we finally

arrived at our destination.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 2

V2 Chapter 2

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Onwards to Raratoia」part 2

The forest opened into a clearing, and what appeared was a village that was completely different from a human one.

The village was surrounded by a wall that might have been over thirty meters tall and looked like it was part of a city.

As we approached the structure, I noticed that carvings of a mouse were engraved into the wall.

The wooden pillars became a radiant green color the farther up you looked and stood without any gaps in the structure; all of which resulted in an imposing and awe inspiring mass before my glaze.

The walls were surrounded by a myriad of thorns that stretched all of the way to the base of the wooden wall.

Thanks to all of this, the wall appeared to be one huge, green block.

The arched gate in front was only wide enough for two people to pass through at a time and wasn't that high. A portcullis made of black metal was installed above the gate, and it seems like it would take quite an impact to move it.

Atop the gate was what seemed to be a watchtower, but the roof was rounded like a flat cylinder, which gave the thing an overall mushroom-like appearance.

The four girls began to joyfully run towards the gate when it came into view.

Even from here, the figures of the two elves who stood guard in the watchtower could be seen as they pointed with their fingers.

"Haa, we've finally made it."

"I'm quite exhausted〜"

Senna and Oona cleared the forest and showed relieved expressions as they finally returned to their home.

"Open the gate!! I am Ariane Glenys Maple! This is Danka Neil Maple! We're returning with people that had been captured by the humans! I need to make a request of the elder!"

Ariane took an erect stance before the gate and shouted the self-introduction before calmly waiting for a response.

Before long, the portcullis started to rise with a creaking sound, followed by wooden groaning as the doors behind it were also opened.

"I'll try to gain permission from the elder, so Arc you'll have to wait out here for a while."

She leaves after saying so; Danka, Senna, Oona, and the four girls followed through the gate, and two elven gatekeepers came out to replace them.

After they disappeared beyond the gate, the two gatekeepers stepped in front of it. One of them was glaring at me while the eyes of the other one were fixed on the fluffy fox sitting atop my head.

I moved a little bit away from the gate and put the sacks of gold coins aside while I settled in to wait for Ariane.

As for Ponta, she spent the time on the new challenge of earnestly trying to grab onto her own large tail. She would gradually approach her tail before twisting her body and jumping at it.

It was similar to a cat that I kept at my parent's house, but this child was doing well. "By their own rules" was probably on the mark?

While I was thinking about trivial things and watching over Ponta's unending battle, the sky became dark.

It'd had been about thirty minutes.

From within the watchtower, an orange light cast away the surrounding darkness. It made me think that unlike the human cities,there was actually electric lights here.

Wait, there was something similar Diento lord's castle……

Eventually, Ariane appeared from the illuminated front gate.

"Arc! I got the elder's permission! Come!"

Following her call, I stood up and placed the sacks of gold coins over my shoulder before making my way towards the gate. Ponta restlessly followed after me.

Under Ariana's guidance, I made my way beyond the portcullis. The walls were about 5 meters thick. After passing the inner portcullis, I finally entered the village of Raratoia.

What I saw inside of the village left a strange impression on me.

There was a field of crops beyond the wall, a spacious pasture to allow domestic animals to graze and wooden houses were sprinkled across the area. Unlike the homes of humans, the houses here were mushroom shaped. Each one had a slightly exposed wooden deck and eaves that stretched to the top. A unique pattern was carved into the supporting pillars of the houses, allowing a glimpse at the culture of these people.

Despite the quiet scenery, the sidewalk was made of beautifully laid cobblestone and street lights were placed at regular intervals, so there was no need to be anxious about where you walked.

When viewed at a distance, the combination of the lights and the night sky created a fantastic scenery.

From what I've seen, the quality of life here was superior to that of the humans.

With Ariane leading the way I advanced through the village, while two warriors from a guard post close to the entrance silently followed behind us. They're probably here to

watch me.

After a while, we finally seemed to have arrived at our destination.

We stood in front of a huge tree… no, it was a building combined with a large tree.

Nestled between the large tree's thick roots was a mansion. The residence was a mixture between the natural and the artificial, and I had no clue how it was made.

However, lights were leaking out from the multiple windows in the trunk illuminating the entire area, giving it all a dignified appearance.

"This is the elder's house. Enter."

Saying so, Ariane opened the wooden front doors and prompted me to enter. However, before I could take a step, Ponta had already slipped inside at the first possible second.

Did you perhaps smell something appetizing?

Passing through the mansion's entrance, I entered what appeared to be atrium hallway. Huge pillars lined the center of the mansion and I could see various pathways that connected to the third floor. It seemed like I would be able to reach them by taking the left- or right-hand stairs on this floor.

Throughout the mansion were lampstands with crystals installed in them, which illuminated the rooms with a warm light. Even the intensity of the light was different compared to the oil lamps used in the human towns.

Two elves were in the center of the hall, while Ariane was off to the side.

One of the elves had blonde hair and appeared to be in his late twenties or early thirties. He was closely observing me while skillfully raising a single eyebrow. This elf was was dressed in attire similar to that of a Shinto priest, except that the outfit was adorned with the peculiar symbols of the elves.

The other person was a dark elf like Ariane and had her long white hair braided and set behind the nape of her lilac neck. She was dressed in traditional attire, and I noticed that the twin hills pushing up against it were even larger than Ariane's.

"Are you Arc? I welcome you to our home. I am Dylan Targ Raratoia, the elder of this village. It seems that my daughter was under your care."

The male elf introduced himself while holding out his hand.

At his words, I could feel that Ariane was slightly uncomfortable. Though her only reaction was that her shoulders slightly trembled.

She certainly said that she belonged to Maple, but she didn't say that it was her birthplace.

I take the right hand of Ariane's father and shake it.

"I am Ariane's mother, Glenys Aruna Raratoia. I am also 170 years old."

After I turned my eyes to Ariane after her mother's introduction, I saw that she was shaking her head. It seems that her age was different from what she said, but it didn't make much of a difference if she lowered it a little since it still exceeds the 100 years that a human could hope for.

It was difficult to react to such an intimate family introduction, but I somehow managed to squeeze out a response.

“This is my first time meeting a lord. As well as a lady. My name is Arc, a traveling adventurer.”

“Ah, we shouldn’t be speaking here. Let’s talk on the second floor while we’re having dinner.”

The elder of Raratoia, Dylan suggested that we take this meeting to the second floor. I agreed on that and followed them upstairs.

There was a large room on the second floor that served as a dining room; chairs were placed around the wooden table and the kitchen seems to be located further back in the mansion.Delicious smells were drifting into the room from the kitchen.

Ponta promptly jumped on the table and sat down. I sat down in the seat recommended by Dylan and placed my baggage at my feet.

Ariane’s mother Glenys said that the stew had warmed up, and went back towards the kitchen.

Once Ariane had taken her sit, Dylan sat down and slightly lowered his head.

“I heard the gist of the situation from my daughter. On behalf of all of the elves, you have our sincerest gratitude. I never imagined that there was a person capable of handling transfer magic. Although she had you as an unexpected fighting force, it was still surprising that my daughter killed the feudal lord on this outing……”

Dylan smiles wryly while scratching the back of his head. The person in question, Ariane, looked away with an unhappy expression on her face.

“Treaty or not, the nobles of Rhoden were disregarding it. Even if they are killed, they are in no position to complain about it!”

“Still you shouldn’t be so careless when discussing this matter…… I have to ask, why did you go to the feudal lord’s castle after you assaulted the kidnappers’ base?”

To answer this question, I summarized my encounter with the female ninja.

“……A person of the mountains and plains. Do the humans call them beastmen? The people of the mountains and plains are one-sidedly being hunted and turned into slaves by the humans.”

The beastmen race was the target of persecution, just like I expected.

“That person was probably part of the group called ‘Emancipator’ whose goal is to free the enslaved people of the mountains and plains flowing through the country. ‘Emancipator’ was formed about 600 years ago, and there are even rumors that the group’s prodigy work as spies in the Leburan empires…… Their intelligence network is far reaching, compared to us who stay in the forest……I see.”

Dylan crossed his arms in a kind of countenance but dropped his shoulders before long.

“Anyway, this time, the usual strategy succeeded so I’ll send the good news to the capital via the whisper birds…… however, since this needs to be discussed in the Great Council

of Elders I need to speak with them personally, but activating the magic transfer formation will cost a lot of magic stones…”

Saying so, Dylan dropped his shoulders again and let out a sigh.

“Oh, I have just the thing for that……”

I moved the sacks of gold coins to the side and dragged out my luggage sack that had been thrown together with it. I reached inside and took out a stone the size of a baby’s fist and presented it to Dylan. Illuminated be the light of the room, the stone glowed a slight purple color.

It was the magic stone that I a took from the Giant Basilisk during the herb collection quest near Rata village.

“This…… is this alright? A magic stone of this purity it could be used as a considerable power source for magic tools right?”

Dylan spoke with an exasperated tone as he confirmed that what was in his hand stone was a magic stone.

Magic stones seem to be used as a power source for magical tools, though I didn’t understand how that worked. Besides, that stone wasn’t particularly precious to me, it was simply something I had.

“It would be the perfect opportunity to test the limits of the tool with this magic stone. There are also the elven slaves’ sale contracts that were recovered from kidnappers’ base to consider.”

I rummaged through my luggage sack before taking out the sealed parchments and handing them all to Dylan.

He placed the magic stone to the side, removed the string of the parchments, and read through the contents of several sale contracts.

“The names of several people are mentioned repeatedly in these contracts… I’ve never heard of Drusus De Barishimon. After that, it’s Londes De Lanbaltic and Ferris De Hoban. The last one, Hoban is the name of a town stationed between the Annette and Parnassus mountains if I’m not mistaken……”

Dylan intently looked over the sales contract for a while, but before long his expression softened.

“When I head to Maple tomorrow I will bring up the previously mentioned matter and the sale contracts. Since there is no diplomatic contact with Rhodan, I may require Ariane to perform information collection and rescue operations again……”

Dylan had a bitter smile, but Ariane was completely unconcerned, as if this was a regular occurrence.

Since he was going to the elven capital, it’s the perfect opportunity to dump some unwanted baggage onto him.

“Since we have the chance, I was wondering if you’d be willing to take these gold coins with you?”

“I don’t mind, but isn’t this the loot that you got away with?”

Dylan returned a surprised expression and couldn’t help but reply honestly. Originally, the gold came from the sale of elven slaves. Since the money was made through illegal means, there’s no way that there would publicly demand for its return. There is also the possibility that they don’t even know who stole it in the first place.

When I told him about it, he raised an eyebrow, but he seemed to have approved. That literally took a load off my back.

“Thank you. We’ll probably use this to buy wheat from the Rinburuto archdukedom. Since Canada is mostly composed of forest, it’s quite difficult to grow wheat. Hmm, you should stay here for a while. You have my permission to travel about Raratoia.”

“Now that the difficult matters are done with? Shall we have a meal? Today I made cream stew.”

After receiving permission to travel about Raratoia from Dylan, Ariane’s mother Glenys set a pot of cream stew on the table.

A basket of soft white bread was also placed on the dining table, followed by salads for everyone.

Even Ponta received her own dish of stew and promptly tried to eat it which elicited a bark from her since it was still very hot. After that she sat and waited patiently for it to cool down.

While I was looking at the appetizingly steaming stew in front of me, I was a little torn about what to do. That was when Dylan told me:

“I heard about your body from my daughter. Glenys and I are okay with it.”

Saying so, he motioned for me to go ahead.

After thinking it over, I quietly remove my helmet and place it on the dining room table. As expected, there was a great difference in the reaction of those who knew what to expect, since the two of them were only a little surprised and recommended the stew without another word.

It must take great courage to sit with an armored skeleton that had pale blue orbs instead of eyes.

As it had been recommended, I picked up a spoon and scooped up some stew. I bring the cooked meat and vegetable stew to my mouth and shallow. The taste of milk and butter spreads through my mouth as the meat broke apart.

Unlike the hard and sour bread I ate in the human town, this bread was soft and had a subtly fruity smell to it, almost like the bread that I’m used to.

Ariane’s mother seems to be an excellent cook, as I had trouble stalling my hand.

“Even though it’s right in front of me, it’s hard to believe that a skeleton is eating.”

Dylan mutters such as he looked at me with interest.I’m in complete agreement, it’s like my stomach lead to a fourth-dimensional pocket……

“You must like it. Go ahead and help yourself to another helping.”

“Kyun!”

Ponta, who was on the side, reacted to Glenys’s words first. She had already cleared her small portion of cooled stew and was asking for a second helping. The dish was even shining.

After I finished putting the rest of the stew in my four-dimensional stomach. I raised my dish to Glenys at the same time as Ariane.

“Another helping.”

“I would like to have another helping.”

Even if I had the body of a skeleton, I was still human inside, and after such a long time I could finally enjoy being able to eat with others again.

This was how my first night in the elf village of Raratoia went.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 3

V2, Chapter 3

Translator: Silver Editor: Kaio

「Forest Capital Maple」

The next day, the elder of Raratoia and Ariane's father went to a small shrine situated at the large tree in the center of the village.

As the sun was rising, the wind blowing through the village still carried with it an unpleasant chill.

The morning mist covered the distant scenery in a haze, leaving only a dim view of the scenery through the branches and leaves extending from the large tree; there seemed to be a slightly mysterious atmosphere drifting through the air.

Behind the small shrine, a small stream flowed from the east to the west through the heart of the village, with the sounds of the murmuring streamlet and the chirping of birds searching for fish resounding in the vicinity.

Surrounding the small shrine was a simple wooden enclosure, though it didn't seem to function as a barrier in particular. It reached no higher than the waist, acting simply as a boundary line for the shrine.

Two warriors stood guard in front of the door that was the entrance to the shrine. They were clad in sturdy leather armor, with one of the elf warriors carrying a sword on his hips. When they saw Elder Dylan approaching, they bowed their heads slightly and offered a greeting.

"Elder Dylan-sama, we've been waiting for you. The preparations for the transfer to Maple are complete."

Dylan offered words of gratitude, and after a few words of idle talk, the two soldiers simultaneously moved to the side. In order to not delay, Ariane also entered the shrine afterwards.

Behind Ariane, carrying the large sacks of gold coins that Arc had contributed yesterday, several men passed through the entrance together.

Although the shrine wasn't spacious to the extent of a mansion, the ceiling was higher in order to accommodate the atrium surrounding the tree in the center. The atrium was supported by thick pillars surrounding the tree.

In the center of the room was a slightly elevated circular stage where the magical tool was installed, lit up by the illumination from crystal-type lamps.

Inscribed into the surface of the circular stage was a complicated and mysterious magic formation; from it, a faint luminescence can be seen.

This small shrine here was the elf village Raratoia's transfer position.

The first generation patriarch of the Great Canada Forest was the one who set up the transfer formations in Maple and the main villages. Installed 800 years ago, it was maintained for generations by village elders, and now it's an essential facility for connecting each village to the capital city, Maple.

While Dylan walked forward until he was before the transfer formation, from the room to the side where the shrine's manager lived, a petite elven man made an appearance.

Though the man looked to be in his forties, elves had a life span of nearly 400 years, and unlike humans, they didn't physical age beyond this point.

"Elder Dylan, the preparations for the transfer formation are already complete. However, since this transfer wasn't scheduled, this means that the magic stone fuel we need to operate it is insufficient, so…"

The petite man who managed the formation spoke with a slightly painful expression, while Dylan gave a liberal nod that gave off an atmosphere of knowing exactly what the man was trying to say before he took out the magic stone he received from Arc yesterday and handed it over to the manager.

"Use this magic stone as the power source. Sorry to trouble you."

Upon receiving the magic stone, the manager gave a small bow and withdrew.

Making sure, Dylan stepped forward onto the central magic formation and called for Ariane.

The men following behind with the luggage lowered the bags of gold onto the formation and waited off to the side of the small shrine.

At a quick pace, Ariane stood next to her father Dylan in response to his call, while the formation at their feet began to shine brilliantly. As a dazzling light engulfed the shrine, they felt a floating sensation for a moment; when the light settled, they were standing in a place that didn't change much from the room where they were at before.

However, the transfer magic formation at their feet was larger than it was before, and the shrine itself was considerably larger. There were many ornaments scattered throughout the shrine, and guards who previously weren't present stood here and there.

They had transferred from the small shrine and arrived at the forest capital, Maple.

After a simple greeting to the manager in charge of Maple's shrine and requesting for someone to transport the sacks of gold coins to central government office, Dylan and Ariane left the shrine.

What awaited them outside the shrine was an enormous city.

Not only were there similar sparse large tree buildings to those in Raratoia, even larger trees also stood in lines here and there. Weaving their way through the roads running in every direction, an overflowing number of elves could be seen.

The early morning blue sky with its chilly atmosphere was concealed by the tops of the large tree-like buildings; the light of the sun, which was still low in the sky, wasn't sufficient enough to reach the valley.

However, the streets lined with shops, with people touting full of energy, and shoppers gazing at goods in a commotion, weren't any less lively than that which was displayed on streets filled with humans.

While barter was still the dominant form of trade for the elves, it was common to use gold coins here in Maple.

Ariane, after such a long time away from the capital, took a deep breath so as to ascertain the air, and stretched.

The forest capital was a metropolis where more than 100,000 people lived. The appearance of such a large city in the Great Canada Forest where a monster supposedly rampaged in its interior was something that the humans would never be able to believe.

After all, in the 800 years since its founding, there was never a time when capital Maple had invited a human inside. Not even people from the Rinburuto Grand Duchy who were trading partners have been graced with a view of this city.

The reason was because various things would cause inconveniences if the humans were to become aware of this place. One of those reasons just so happened to pass before Ariane's eyes.

He had a short stature of around 130 centimetres, but that doesn't mean he's a small child. Large burly arms thicker than those of dark elves along with an overall firmly-built body, short pointed ears, and a lengthy beard extending to his waist.

The person who just passed by was a man of the dwarf race.

Formerly the leaders in metallurgy and consequently being targeted, they were a race officially known by the human society as having perished. If you strained your eye and looked properly, you can catch sight of them here and there throughout the town, blended with the abundant crowds of elves.

The metropolis of Maple was a magical city formed through the combination of elves' spirit magic and the dwarves' metallurgy technology, while it was the founding patriarch who created the opportunity to build this city.

The founding patriarch also strictly prohibited inviting any humans to Maple.

However, the other villages in the outer circumference were left to the discretion of the elders. Villages on the outskirts of the forest traded with humans as their towns had the advantage of being relatively close to the villages. However, most of the villages further within the forest's depths and away from human habitats rarely encountered them. Hence, it was rare for a human to enter the other villages as well.

Arc's invitation to Raratoia was a case where Ariane, unexpectedly the elder's daughter, acted as the mediator ― a considerable exception.

After Ariane thoroughly enjoyed Maple's invariant scenery, with her father's beckoning ahead, she ran toward Dylan's direction.

Dylan advanced through the intervening roads in the valley of large tree buildings, weaving through the crowd without hesitation.

A short time later, they emerged in a place where the view that was previously blocked by

the large tree buildings suddenly opened up. In the center of the vast clearing stood the largest structure they'd seen so far: made from a giant tree, it was like a tower as it soared before their eyes.

It was at such a towering height that your neck would become sore looking at it as you approached.

Many guards stood in front of the spacious entrance, constantly keeping a watchful eye on the people entering and exiting the building. After passing through the front entrance to the front counter and conveying that they had business, they were met with a female elf receptionist immediately.

Led by the receptionist, they were guided down a corridor to one of the cylindrical rooms among the great number lined up within the building.

In the center of the cylindrical room, something similar to a crystal ball was placed on a pedestal, with half of it embedded inside. When the female guide touched the crystal ball, it slowly began to emit a faint light.

Without much warning, the floor of the cylindrical room rose, moving without any sound as it ascended higher and higher.

Before long, the rising floor came to a stop, reaching its intended level, with the connecting passageway leading to the tower's outer part. With a window running along the entire outer circumference, it offered an unbroken view of the entire city.

Just facing the west, all of the Maple would appear at one's feet, with an enormous lake spread out on the horizon. Even looking at the north, or at the south, the lake's edges can't be seen.

Called the Great Slave by the founding patriarch, the huge lake was the city's precious source of water, providing furthermore an abundance of fish to catch ─ a treasure house.

While looking at the glittering scenery with the morning sun reflecting off the Great Slave lake, sparkling, they advanced through the corridor and finally arrived at their destination.

Before long, they arrived before a set of large double doors. After the female clerk opened one side of the doors and informed the person within of the arrival of visitors, she stepped aside, prompting the two to enter.

Ariane and Dylan nodded at each other and passed through the doors.

There were no splendorous decorations or the like inside; rather, the atmosphere within the large room was quite subdued. There was a large round table placed in the center of the room, with eleven men and women seated around it.

The seated people were almost all elves, but the figures of a dark elf and a dwarf can also be seen. This was the central governing council of Maple's ten grand elders, with the third generation patriarch, Brian Boyd Evangeline Maple, assembled with them.

The current patriarch had genealogy that can be traced back to the founding patriarch, Evangeline, though it was unusual for an elf to inherit and call themselves with the first generation's name.

"Elder Dylan of Raratoia, is it already time to report the results of the recent rescue

mission? Why are you here to report it in person?”

A person sitting in the back of the room calmly asked Dylan those questions.

The man with the calm atmosphere looked to be in his forties and had long green-tinged blonde hair that was tied together with a braid colored with complex patterns. He was Patriarch Brian, the third generation head.

In response to the question, her father spoke with a rarely shown expression of nervousness, leading Ariane to occasionally glance at Dylan’s state with curious eyes. When the conversation reached the part about the feudal lord, his expression darkened slightly and his eyes were lowered.

When Dylan finished his report, the noises in the room disappeared, filling it with a quiet atmosphere, making the slight movement of someone standing up seem extremely loud.

“Well, for the time being, the prisoners were rescued, and the two other unidentified people’s safety were secured as well.”

When one of the great elders said this to start up the conversation, it was like a dam had broken as opinions began to be exchanged, thrown in rapid succession.

“The problem is the fact that the two rescued were held by the feudal lord. Isn’t this matter a little troubling?”

“However, they personally violated the binding treaty from 400 years ago. Considering this, then there’s no grounds on which the other side can protest in this matter…”

“Wait wait, the feudal lord participating in the kidnapping this time is a legitimate reason to start a war! Have they already forgotten that, 600 years ago, they made war on us and split their country in the process!?”

“The tale of the war 600 years ago that we heard about from our parents is enough for us, but it’s nothing but a story written in history books for the humans… It truly seems impossible to build a lasting friendly relationship with them.”

“Humph, the opposition may not be able to say anything if we talk about supplying them with a bounty of magic stones…”

The grand elders each shouted with a loud voice proclaiming their opinions, and the hall fell into pandemonium.

Dylan who looked at the state of affairs and Patriarch Brian sitting at the back simultaneously let out a loud sigh.

Eventually, with lunch interposed, the back and forth dispute was brought to a tentative conclusion, but it was hard to say that the settled conclusion was very significant.

“For now, we’ll just wait and see…”

While the circular floor soundlessly slid down the cylindrical room, Dylan stood next to Ariane, muttering the conclusion reached a while ago.

The Rhoden Kingdom had began a war 600 hundred years ago; however, the number of engagements were nearly nonexistent. At that time, the Tishiento dukes kept an opposing stance on war with the elves and broke off from the Rhoden kingdom, forming the

Rinburuto Grand Duchy.

Since then, interactions with the humans such as trade were only limited to those of Rinburuto.

At the time of the war, the majority of the troops of the Rhoden Kingdom's king and feudal lords were lost; it fell into the brink of destruction. Fortunately, the country still remained to this day thanks to the fact that the Reburan Empire, in a dispute for succession of the throne, had split into East and West, unfolding with it a fierce war that was the only saving grace allowing the kingdom to recover.

Afterwards, the king of Rhoden 400 years ago formally apologized for the war, and in a display of goodwill, signed a treaty that prohibited the capture of elves.

Certainly, the feudal lord's assassination this time might have been excessive, but the fault lay with the kingdom ― an opinion that would be hard to appeal.

In anticipation of the arrival of an official messenger, by saying that preparation had to be done, things had finally settled down.

"I'm sorry, Elder Dylan."

His daughter, who pulled the trigger this time, had a gloomy expression with downcast eyes. Gently caressing the head of beautiful white hair she inherited from her mother, Dylan gave a wry smile.

"Ariane, you're still young; besides, the matter still hasn't been settled yet, right?"

Saying so, he took out the aforementioned contract relating to the trafficking of elves from his breast pocket. It was said that the investigation of the people mentioned in the contract would again be entrusted to Dylan.

"It seems like you'll have a chance to repent since they asked you to remain a part of the investigation. We can officially request assistance from Arc-kun this time. Nevertheless, that took longer than expected; there's no longer a chance to meet with Ivin after specially coming to Maple."

Dylan had a slightly worn-out expression as he shrugged his shoulders. Ivin was another daughter of his ― Ariane's older sister.

"Did you have some business with Onee-san?"

Ariane had a look of curiosity as she recalled the unyielding face of the sister she hadn't seen in a while.

"Eh, have you not spoken to her yet, Ariane? I heard that she's getting married next year. Though actual feelings about it haven't set in as I've yet to see her fiancé's face…"

Ariane was so surprised at the her father's brief comment that it looked like her jaw would dislocate.

"What?! You're lying!? That battle maniac of a sister who said she would never get married in her life?! Is the fiancé some warrior whom I know?"

"No, according to what I've heard, she's engaged to a farmer."

Ariane could only express a look of disbelief.

An unparalleled battle enthusiast, possessing abilities that surpassed even Ariane's, she was a powerful warrior prided by Maple, boasting of outstanding strength above all else. Her sister was one who showed only interest in strong opponents, so Ariane could only be dumbfounded by the story that seemed to be about an entirely different person.

When they left the giant tree tower that served as the central building while listening to such talk, the sky's early-morning blue color had already changed into that of dusk.

The magical tools' light from the windows of the large tree buildings in addition to the street lights underfoot repelled the approaching darkness.

The sister she thought would never change had changed in a way unknown to herself, causing some feelings of bewilderment and loneliness to be born in her heart.

As she was lost in thought over these newly formed emotions, with every passing moment, the sky darkened.

With few words between them, Ariane and Dylan walked side-by-side down the well-lit street as they quickly returned to the shrine leading back to Raratoia.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 4

V2 Chapter 4

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

⌈Tour of Raratoia⌋

First thing in the morning, the smell of breakfast and the sound of bird's chirping reached my ears and nose. My eyes were tempted into opening and I was able to catch sight of my surroundings.

Raising my head to look around the room, I saw that my silver full-body armor with white and blue undertones was sitting next to the bed.

Yesterday was the first time I took off the armor to sleep since I came to this world. Since I was nothing but a skeleton there was no need to cover myself, but I would feel weird if I didn't.

When I started to sit up, I noticed my body was heavier than usual. Looking under the cover, I saw that Ponta had sneaked under my blankets at some point during the night. Moreover, she was sleeping inside of my rib cage.

"Dowa!"

I unintentionally shouted in surprise.

After removing Ponta from my chest, I placed her down beside the bed while she continued her trip through dreamland.

Pulling a creature out of your own rib cage……, what an indescribable sensation──

While I got out of bed, the sound of my bones lightly cracking 「Kokikoki」 could be heard. You'd think that there would be a loss of flexibility with a body that lacked muscle, but I didn't have that feeling.

I put on the armor that had been off to the side before putting the helmet on.

While the elder's family was aware of my body's secret, I did not need to didn't need to share it with every single one of Raratoia's inhabitants. Dylan said that very few people actually knew about it last night. In fact, the only ones besides Dylan's family that knew were the former captives from Diento Senna and Oona.

I heard that it was rare for humans to enter elven villages, so when it happened the news quickly spread amongest the villagers.

You should avoid unnecessary trouble when you can.

The black cloak I let Oona borrow yesterday was in my hands; she had already returned it, but neither the black cloak or the flashy armor would detract from my figure inside the village.

Since it wasn't necessary to wear the cloak inside the village, I shoved it into my luggage bag.

Once I was ready to leave the room, Ponta rose up unexpectedly and made her way in front of the door, having a good posture and wagging her fluffy tail.

It seems Ponta was attracted by the smell that was drifting in from downstairs.

When I opened the room door, she nearly butted her head against it as she ran down the stairs as fast as her little body could take here.

According to the elves, spirit beasts can last a long time without eating, and they are rarely seen eating in public.

When they leave the forest for more residential areas, it was possible to see spirit beasts taking part in more meals; however, this rule didn't seem to apply to Ponta since she had a healthy appetite no matter the location.

When I reached the room on the second floor from last night's delicious meal, Ponta was already absorbed in her plate of breakfast, and Ariane's mother Glenys was watching her.

She was wearing an apron on top of the elves' traditional dress she had been wearing yesterday.

"Ah, good morning. Were you able to get a good night's rest? For a skeleton to sleep…… I just find that hard to imagine."

Glenys most have tried to imagine it because she had an amused smile on her face.

While it might have been amusing to see nothing but a skeleton outlined by covers, it took a very bold person to joke about that in front of the person himself without hesitation.

Unlike Ariane, there was a gentle atmosphere surrounding her through.

"It's rather early, Glenys-dono."

"Kyun!"

When I returned Glenys's greeting, Ponta also gave her own; she raised her head to call out before stuffing her face with breakfast again.

"I've prepared breakfast, so please sit down and wait a moment."

After petting Ponta, Glenys stood up and took her apron figure to the back kitchen.

"Much obliged. By the way, I haven't seen Dylan-dono or Ariane-dono, have they already headed off to Maple?"

While looking around, I asked Glenys a question while she went off towards the back kitchen.

"Yes, earlier this morning."

Glenys gave a brief answer as she returned from the kitchen with a tray of breakfast. She sat the tray in front of me before taking the seat opposite to my own.

I put my helmet to the side, before placing my hands together above the meal in front of me.

The meal was composed of fried sausage links covered in a white sauce, light brown toast, fried eggs, and a side of miso soup.

When I bite into it, the sound of the crisp toast and the smell of cooked bread welled up; the fried sausages were both tender and seasoned to perfection. Furthermore, there was something familiar about the taste of the sauce, and I ended up letting out a surprised cry.

“Mayonnaise……”

“Oh, you know of it? It’s a sauce that the first chief devised, I thought that it had only spread to the humans of Rinburuto……”

Glenys tilted her head in confusing at the unexpected revelation.

The name of the concoction seemed to be mayonnaise. Since mayonnaise was not that hard to make, it can be done if you have a little knowledge about it.

The first chief built Maple 800 years ago, and it might have been possible that he had been someone in a similar situation to my own. The elves had long life spans, so was it possible that the person was still alive?

“Is the first chief still alive by any chance?”

While popping another fried egg in my mouth, I asked Glenys the question without much hope.

“Fufufu. While elves indeed have great longevity, we can not live that long. The average life expectancy of an elf is about 400 years.”

Still a 400-year lifespan……, wasn’t the average lifespan of a human around 50 years during this time period? No, wouldn’t those in power be able to extend their lives with the use of recovery magic?

It was possible that the first chief had been someone in the same situation as me, but there was no way to confirm it when the person in question is deceased. Since there was no way to confirm it, it’s better that I don’t dwell on it forever.

After this, I plan to explore the elven village of Raratoia today.

Since I got Dylan’s permission, I planned to leisurely spend my day walking around. Glenys agreed to act as my guide, but there would also be observers. Thinking about the relationship between the humans and the elves, these measures couldn’t be helped, so I didn’t really mind.

Since Dylan was scheduled to return in the evening, it’s better to not cause any trouble in the village.

Just like last night’s dinner, the food was delicious. The staple foods of commoner humans were lightly seasoned potatoes, beans, and different types of porridge. There was meat from monsters to make a variety of meat dishes, and a few common spices were available as well.

I’m thankful for being able to stay in a place where I can eat delicious food.

When I brought the last fried sausage link to my mouth, Ponta focused in on it from her place beside the table.

When I started waving the link on the fork back and forth like a maestro changing the tempo, Ponta waved her head side to side.

I resigned myself and gave the last sausage link to Ponta, who happily seized it before gnawing on it.

Glenys laughed cheerfully as she stares at the scene with warm eyes. A skeleton could not change its complexion, but I cleared my throat to change the atmosphere.

“You seem to be amused Glenys-dono”

Showing my gratitude for the meal, I stood up while putting my helmet back on; once she was finished, Ponta used wind magic to fly to her regular spot.

When I went down to the first floor of the tree-like mansion, I looked out from the front entrance.

Yesterday, the darkness made it difficult grasp the area in its entirety; however thanks to the morning sun, the view from the mysteriously fused structure became clear.

While the cityscape of humans gave off a similar feel to medieval Europe, the scenery before me looked as if it came out of a game or novel. The buildings in this village were the likes of which I’ve never seen. Several of the houses in the distance were basically large wooden mushroom.

When I looked back in the mansion, I saw that Glenys no longer had her apron on as she approached.

“Are these buildings unusual to humans?”

When she noticed that I was intently looking around, she gave me a small smile while asking her question.

“Um, I simply have no clue as to how these structures were built.”

“That’s right, it might be impossible to create them without the application of spirit magic.”

The buildings seem to be constructed with spirit magic, and it must be a taxing process as the were only a few of them around

“Sometimes fluffy foxes like Ponta would take up residence in this mansion’s hollows. Fluffy foxes usually travel the winds in a skulk after all……”

While she was talking, she looked at Ponta who sat on top of my head. Ever since I used magic to heal her injuries, that spot has been her favorite place.

If we ever came across Ponta’s companions, then it would be her right to leave with them.

Thinking that, I followed Glenys as she led me through the village.

I was met with curiosity as we passed by other elves, so it wasn’t all that different from the humans.

The walls of Raratoia village happened to encompass a large area of land. From a distance, you could see the green top of the village’s entrance.

Inside the wall was a vast pasture for the cattle to graze, and a beautifully maintained stream flowed throughout the village. There was also a field with a variety of crops planted in it.

Before long we came upon a shelf entwined with strange ivy plants that had gourd-like fruits sprouting from their tops.

“Glenys-dono, what are these?”

The gourd-like fruit was semi-transparent and filled with liquid; the core floated in the center like a hydroponics cultivator. The surface was rubbery when I poked it, kind of like a plastic bag filled with water.

“Watermelons. While the content is mostly water, the skins are still usable. Once you drain the water and smoke the skin, the husk can be used to tenderize meat with herbs.”

“Huh, was the fried sausage I ate this morning made like that?”

“Yes, since some types of monster meat are rather hard, they need to be processed before they can be eaten. The first chief was the one that devised the way for us the watermelons in such a way. Though in the old days, it seems that the watermelons were only used as water sources.”

The first chief seemed to have been eager in his search for a decent meal.

When I looked around I saw an elven fieldworker bowing in our direction. There were many other elves working in the surrounding fields, similar to those from the human villages.

Honestly, the number of elves here made it felt more like a town than a village.

“Is this a relatively large village? There seems to an abundant number of elves here.”

“For security reasons, multiple smaller villages combined into a single large one; maybe around 4000 people live here?”

4000 people living in the depths of a forest was a rather good number when I thought about it. While I thought, a girl ran towards me from the opposite side of the field. I recognized the girl as one of those that were rescued on the mission.

When she was in front of me the girl stops and looked up. Her braided green-tinged blonde hair cutely bobbed up and down.

“Armor ojii-san! Can Ponta have this?”

The girl held out something in her hands when she asked. She was holding up a small red apple-like fruit.

Ponta’s twitching nose indicated that the fruit’s sweet smell had provoked her, and before long she jumped from my head to the girl’s palm.

“Oh, I don’t mind.”

The girl gave her cheerful replay before giving the whole apple to Ponta. After thinking for a while, Ponta stated spinning the apple around as she took bites out of it.

From behind the fascinated little girl, a young looking man and women came up to me and deeply bowed their heads.

“For rescuing our daughter, thank you very much.”

The young man, who seemed to be the girl’s father, looked straight at me as he offered his gratitude. The women, who was apparently her mother, lowered her head multiple time as her sobbing and tears prevented her from speaking coherently.

“What, there’s no need for your thanks. I was only employed by Ariane-dono, so there’s no need to humble yourselves this much.”

However, the couple shook their heads and once again expressed their gratitude. The strange situation caused the surrounding farmers to curiously look towards us.

When the two parents noticed that they were causing a scene in the middle of the village, they lowered their heads and offered their gratitude once again.

Since I only took Ariane’s personal request, all of this was causing my back to itch a little. No, since it was me, it would be my spine and shoulder blades that itched.

Ponta seemed to be satisfied with her meal because she skillfully leaped back on my head and dozed off.

Fortunately, the two managed to regain their composur

When I looked around I saw that the sun was already setting and the installed streetlights began to light.

Glenys called out to inform me that Dylan would be returning soon and that we should be making our way back to the mansion.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 5

V2 Chapter 5

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

⌈The trader doesn't bargain⌋ (think it's an idiom help if you can そうは問屋が卸さない)

By the time we got back to the mansion, Dylan and Ariane had already returned from Maple.

Ariane wasn't wearing her protective gear or her long-sleeved dress with the modest length hem. Today, she was wearing the elves' traditional wear and a haori coat that hung off her shoulders. The smooth lilac skin of the dark elves that made up her ample cleavage was exposed without shame.

It was perfectly fine if she wanted to enjoy a different look, but my brain capacity will probably be cut in half tonight.

While discussing the meeting with the elders, Ariane and the rest of us made our way to the second-floor dining room. Seems like this room served as the regular place for eating meals.

Glenys vanished into the kitchen, saying that she was going to prepare dinner, and before long the sound of cooking and humming could be heard.

At Dylan's recommendation, I took a seat while he sat at the head of the table and Ariane on the other side.

Ponta sat on my lap, (lazily) placing her front paws and head on the table.

"As I've already told Ariane, the information that was gathered from the human sale contracts will help us find our brethren that have been sold. That was what we discussed at the great elders' meeting. We are mostly ignorant of the human world, so it's impossible to dispatch a large number of warriors. So I thought that we could continue to rely on you, Arc, to help Ariane with her missions."

Without averting his eyes, Dylan calmly spoke about the future with a sincere expression.

I myself am not too informed on the human world as well, but it would be difficult for a large group of elves to sneak into a human town.

Next to Dylan, Ariane was also looking at me with a serious expression. There can be no hesitation in deciding to board a ship I planned to take……

While I was a little troubled, Dylan offered a reward for his request.

"There aren't many rewards we could offer to you, since most of the gold coins have already been transferred……"

Dylan pauses for a moment to offer a wry smile.

"So, how about I provide you with information instead? In fact, there is a spring that is rumored to dispel every type of curse, it might be able to remove the one placed on your

body. Still, nothing can be guaranteed at the moment……”

“Is there really such a spring?”

Hearing Dylan’s story, his daughter Ariane tilted her head in confusion. Dylan shrugged his shoulders at his daughter’s question.

“According to a reliable source, the spring is located near the Dragon King’s Tree. …… Since it is very dangerous to reach that place, there is no guarantee you will be able to return alive……”

“The Dragon King’s Tree, that’s in the hinterlands……No, that would still be impossible.”

Ariane was going to say something, she gained some insight on her own and remained silent. The hinterlands were probably a place that the humans nor elves could gain control over. As for my staying in this village, it will be decided by my next choice.

The only worrisome aspect was……

“What’s the Dragon King’s Tree?”

I voiced an honest question about a name I never heard, so after clearing his throat, Dylan began to explain what the Dragon King’s Tree was.

The tree called the Dragon King’s Tree, is a large type of tree that only grows in the Dragon King’s territory. The presence of the Dragon King’s enormous magical power has caused the tree’s spirit to be altered.

“As a result of the tree’s altered spirit, the leaves and root of the tree have been blessed with a variety of abilities. The deeply set roots also began to affect the surrounding area. In fact, I’ve heard that the branches and leaves of the tree can be sold for a considerable price among the humans.”

“Simply put, the spirit of the tree dwells in those parts and bestows those abilities. However, since the tree is within the Dragon King’s territory, it’s unlikely that the spring’s gift will be given for free……”

Following up on Dylan’s explanation, Ariane mentioned this with a sigh.

According to what they told me, not only was the journey perilous, but the destination itself was dangerous as well. Even with the high-spec body, you’d have to pardon me from taking on the dragon king alone.

I told Ariane that my skeletal body was the result of a curse, instead of the character editing that I did to make it look like this, so the part about breaking the curse was really my personally crafted role-play.

However, the elves say that all undead are characterized by the impurity that surrounds them, but it seemed that I lacked said characteristic.

This body still hold many mysteries――――

Then, in this case it might not be bad to help people searching for a treatment for this body――――― at the very least it wouldn’t be a bad purpose in life.

Though there is something I have to hear first.

“Hum, would it be safe to enter the Dragon King’s territory?”

Let’s say that, for the sake of lifting the curse, I enter the Dragon King’s home and am unable to defeat him, in that case I would be unceremoniously eaten. Well, considering that I only consist of bones it is unlikely that I’ll end up being eaten……

However, it seems that my fear was unfounded.

“It’s alright. If a human suddenly entered, it would be bad, but if we elves gain permission to do so beforehand there should be no problem.”

From what I heard, the Dragon King was capable of human speech and he was willing to listen to reason. Canada Forest was also the place where the Dragon King decided to settle and was under his protection.

The elves were said to be a race with low numbers, but it seemed to me that their military might wasn’t inferior to other countries.

“When you go to the spring, we can go together Arc.”

“Well, Arc? Are you willing to lend the elves your power for a while more?

The elder of Raratoia, Dylan, was sincerely lowering his head to a human like me.

While it was a groundless expectation, it still would be nice to travel the world helping people. However, while I thought things over, Ariane leaned forward, making her abundant chest stand out more.

“Could you please do it for me, Arc?”

“Hum, I see.”

……While I had the bad habit of being unable to turn down a woman’s sincere request, it also certain that I would really enjoy traveling with Ariane.

Even though I am nothing but bones, I’m still a man on the inside.

“As long as it is within my modest abilities, your humble servant will gladly help you Ariane-dono.”

“Thank goodness. Elves tend to stand out in human cities…… so I was worried asking this of my daughter.”

Dylan lowered his head again before he offered his right hand after hearing me accept their request. I take his hand and shook it.

“Are the difficult talks over yet? Supper is ready.”

With these words, Glenys brought back some dishes from the kitchen and proceeded to put one in front of each of us.

Ponta, who had been stationary ‘til now, stood on her hind legs as her nose twitched upon smelling the dish.

Tonight’s meal consisted of bread, salad, bean soup and the odd inclusion of hamburger steak as the main dish.

An already cooled plate of hamburger steak was placed before Ponta, and she happily

wagged her tail while taking bites out of the meal.

“Well, should we continue the small talk after the meal is finished.”

When Dylan put an end to the conversation, I take a look at the plate in front of me. I took off my helmet, and placed my hands together above the meal.

Though I didn’t know the source of the steak, the meat was rather juicy and the blend of herbs and spices made for a sufficiently delicious hamburger. Thought there was a faint hint of nutmeg, it wasn’t that much different from the hamburgers on earth.

There weren’t any meat dishes with nutmeg in the human cities, so the elves might own a monopoly on the spice.

I thoroughly enjoyed the nostalgic taste of the meal, we began discussing the details of our plans for tomorrow before bringing the meeting to a close.

When I returned to the room I slept in last night, I took off my armor and placed it besides the bed.

The magic tool that the elves made acted similarly to an oil lamp and illuminated the entire room.

Ponta blocked out the light with her tail by curling up in a ball beside the bed, and before long the sound of soft snoring could be heard. Seems like she had a full stomach.

Placing my hand on the light and calling 『Lights out』, and the room darkens as the lights shut off without a sound.

Once my eyes adjusted to the darkness, the outline of the room became faintly visible thanks to the moonlight seeping in from the window.

While I was looking at the scenery visible through the side window, I sat quietly on the bed in order to avoid waking Ponta. Since this mansion was made of a tree, the sky above was shrouded by the leaves and branches, so the moonlight seeping in from the window was unreliable.

Illuminated by the faint moonlight, I raised my arm and looked at its bony form.

――― was this body really the result of a curse?

If this really was a curse, shouldn’t I at least consider a way to break it?

In order for humans to capture elves, a magic eating collar that prevented the use of magic was attached to them, and the solution was to have me break them with a magic spell.

The spell 【Anti-Curse】belonged to the intermediate bishop class. There was the possibility that the curse would be lifted if I tried to cast that type of magic on myself.

The high-level pope skill 【Holy Purification】has the ability to remove all curses, but it simultaneously dealt massive damage to undead.

Even though I lacked the characteristics of the undead, I still couldn’t bring myself to try it.

The act of casting magic on oneself required an unexpected amount of courage, especially if one doesn’t know the source of that power. However, if I thought about it carefully,

transfer magic moves me to an entirely different location. It should be the same as submitting myself to magic, because if something went wrong, it wouldn't be that strange to end up "trapped within a stone".

I should at least give it a try.

I place my right hand over the left one and target the spell on my left index finger.

"【Anti-Curse】"

When I calmly invoked the spell, a magic formation appeared beneath my palm before releasing lights that were absorbed into my targeted finger. The bone of my finger took the form of human's above the first joint.

"Oooh! …… oh?"

The results were contrary to what I expected, causing me to let out a surprised yelp; however, it lasted only for a moment before it changed to a questioning one.

My left index finger, only retained its human appearance for several second before it disappeared. With my skeleton hand raised under the moonlight, it was as if what happened before was merely a dream.

Trying to expand the range of the spell, I cast 【Anti-curse】on my left forearm. When the light was absorbed, a flesh and blood forearm appeared.

The arm that was once bone was right before my eyes; the forearm was rather muscular and a shade of brown. Though, it was possible that it was just a tan since the moonlight was rather unreliable. Was the fact that this body was more muscular than my original body a result of my level?

"?!"

There was a strange feeling of discomfort when I faintly brushed the arm, and before long the flesh dissipated again; returning to its bone-like state.

I grasped my skeletal left arm repeatedly to check its condition, but the strange feeling was already gone.

After that, I cast 【Anti-curse】on my left arm several times, but each time the flesh would return back to its skeletal form. Every time the flesh and blood arm returned, so to did the discomfort, but that feeling disappeared again once it reverted back to its bone form.

The time I spent experimenting gave me an understanding that this body can be affected to a certain extent by the spell. However, the effect was only temporary, as if the curse was persistent or something?

I laid my body down on the bed.

I wouldn't find any answers even if I thought about it with my literally empty head. It best to take a rest when all you have are bad ideas, and hope things get better.

To prevent another invasion from Ponta, I wrapped the blanket around my body. I probably looked like a mummy from the side, was the last thing I thought as I shut my eyes.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 6

V2 Chapter 6

Translator: Silver Editor: Kaio

「The Purpose of Preference」

In the forest where the morning fog shrouded the towering trees in a mist, the dark elf Ariane walked ahead with her gray cloak fluttering in the wind, while behind her, I followed closely so as to not fall behind.

The black cloak covering my armor had become standard attire while traveling these days. Above my helmet, Ponta gave a large yawn with tired eyes as she tried not to fall.

Early this morning, we left Raratoia Village, with us now heading for the Riburuto River that flowed through the forest of Canada.

As a result of last night's discussion, it was decided that we would search the territories of the nobles whose names had appeared on several contracts. There were three names that appeared the most on the contract, and the name Ferris De Hoban was one that Dylan was familiar with.

The town named Hoban was governed by said noble, and since it was said to be within the Rhoden Kingdom, it was decided that we'd head for it first.

The town Hoban was apparently one of the towns along the highway that connected to the elves' only official trading partner within the Rhoden kingdom, the Rinburuto Archduchy.

The town was a considerable distance from Raratoia. We first had to pass through the elven village Darutowa, which was downstream the Riburuto River. From there, after travelling west through the north side of the Annette mountain range, and passing through the vast forest afterwards, our first stop was the human town of Cellist.

Though using the transfer magical tool to travel from Ratatoia to Darutowa would take an instant, we decided against it as there was no way to know how the other side would react to a human learning of that secret.

I may know of the elves' transfer magic, and furthermore be able to use it myself, but amongst the elves, only a small portion was aware of that fact, so such problems were inevitable.

Moreover, besides being able to transfer to locations I've already been to previously with【Transfer Gate】, there's also【Dimensional Step】that can be used to travel short distances when the situation called for it, so I figured there would be no troubles, if any at all.

However, now in the middle of the dense overgrown forest without any roads, two people carrying bags of luggage on their shoulders along with one animal kept walking endlessly. Though in Ponta's case, you can't say that she was really walking…

There was a reason why【Dimensional Step】couldn't be used.

It wasn’t possible to use general magic anymore. Ariane said that the fog that hung over our eyes, enveloping us, was the cause.

It was especially easy to lose your way within the particularly thick fog. A short distance away, the scenery became a hazy white, while anything past that can’t be seen through the fog.

With such a fog covering the thick forest and valley, the flow of mana seemed to have become obstructed, making magic difficult to control, resulting in the loss of the ability to use even the worst magic.

However, this seemed to be a problem that mainly affected humans, since the elves’ magic was directly controlled by spirits, and monsters and spirit beasts were immune to the fog’s effect.

It seemed to act like Minovsky particles…

Using basic magic such as starting an ordinary fire wasn’t a problem, so this fog may affect only sensitive types of magic.

Before long, I began to hear the sound of running water from beyond the veil of fog. Somehow or other, we reached our first destination, Riburuto River.

When we approached the riverbank, the surroundings immediately cleared up. Thanks to the wind that blew along the river, the fog was remarkably thinner compared to the forest. The view even extended unobstructed from downstream the river all the way to its upper reaches.

However, our view opening up wasn’t all good, as we caught sight of several dragonfly groups flying around the edge of the river.

The dragonflies must have felt threatened by the sudden emergence of intruders from the forest. From their jaws, a grating gichigichi sound was made while they flew straight for us.

With their their large transparent wings expanded and bodies just under two metres in length, these huge dragonflies would be daunting even if you didn’t have an aversion to insects.

“Be careful, Arc!”

“Nu-o!?”

Ariane pulled the Lion King’s Sword from the sheath on her waist in a practiced manner, and greeted the approaching dragonflies. Her beautiful long white hair shook with a silvery light whenever she ran, with the severed wings and torsos of the dragonflies falling down onto the ground beneath her.

On the other hand, I instinctively used【Dimensional Step】to transfer behind another one of the dragon flies that had launched an attack at me. Fortunately, the river and its banks were not affected by the fog, so I was safely able to transfer behind the dragon fly.

Due to taking a fixed distance after the transfer, I was able to rearrange my stance.

I don’t hate insects in particular, but in the past, a cockroach flew into my clothes, clinging

onto it; the trauma shouldered from back then had since come to the point of me having unpleasant feelings towards insects by reflex.

I pulled the sword from my waist in one go and cut down the dragonfly that was approaching. The sword blade filled with a pale blue brilliance as I brandished it sideways, splitting the huge dragonfly right in half. Its body fell to the ground, while its wings that was filled with resilient vitality flapped noisily above the gravel of the river beach as it crawled about. While crushing it underfoot, I swung my sword at the rest of the dragonflies remaining in the air.

Before long, the dragonflies judged that they were at a disadvantage and scattered upstream, with the unpleasant hum of their wings disappearing in the vicinity.

On the bank of the river, only the sounds of flowing water and the rustling of leaves from the many trees along it, riding upon the winds, could be heard.

After carefully wiping away the insects' bodily fluids off her sword and sheathing it, she turned around to face me and called out while approaching.

"Seems that the riverside isn't affected by the fog. If that's the case, we can travel downstream in one go."

Nodding at her suggestion, and after confirming that Ariane was holding onto my shoulder, I invoked【Dimensional Step】to move downstream the Riburuto River,

The area surrounding us became clear as the fog gave way to the rising sun.

Around noon, I took a break for a short while from using transfer magic to move downstream so that we could enjoy the lunch that Glenys made for us.

Soon after, around when the sun began to decline, a mountain range to the right appeared ahead, seeming surprisingly large. The mountain range seemed to match the one that I've heard about called the Annette Mountain Range.

On the eastern side of the mountain range was the elven village Darutowa.

The outward appearance was roughly the same as Ariane's birthplace, Raratoia, with only a few differences. The main difference being that there was a large moat filled with water from the nearby river that surrounded the village's walls and a drawbridge connected to the entrance. The bridge was raised at the moment, preventing anyone from approaching the village.

There was a small plaza in front of the village's entrance, a place in which some similar mushroom-shaped buildings like those seen in Raratoia were built.

Ariane didn't seem to have particularly strong feelings for the landscape as she stood in front of the drawbridge and called out to the elves who were stationed in the watchtower.

"My name is Ariane Glenys Mable! I am heading towards a human town for a mission! I wish to borrow a cottage for the night!"

After her greetings, a man in the watchtower gave a fleeting glance in our direction. After talking about something to another person, the man responded to Ariane from across the moat.

“I welcome you! Your dinner will be prepared in the village! Please use whichever guest cottage you like!

Upon receiving that answer, Ariane lowered her head before turning her heel and returning to my side.

“We’ll stay in a cottage here for tonight. Tomorrow morning, once we advance through the forest west of here, the Rhoden Kingdom’s city named Cellist should appear.”

“Hrm, finally. We’ve traveled quite a distance.”

“Honestly, if you came here from Raratoia it would normally take four days by walking…”

While I follow behind Ariane as she picked out a hut, I was able to hear the slight amazement in her voice.

The flat mushroom-shaped hut she choose was comparatively larger than the others, with a thick support pillar at the center and a kitchen with a stone floor in the interior that also had a fireplace. A table and chairs for four were to the left of the pillar, while on the right by the window were four beds, with none of the other furnitures standing out.

When I placed my baggage down near the pillar and sat down on a bed, Ponta who was enshrined on top of my helmet got off, walking around with a petapeta as she checked the room. After Ponta lifted her paw, she tilted her head in confusion as she stared at the distinct pawprints she had left behind.

It appeared that this cottage probably hasn’t been maintained or cleaned in a while.

I opened the window fully and flapped the blanket on the bed to clear out the dust, sending them into the air. Trying to drive away the dusty air, Ponta’s magic created a whirlwind in the room, but it only caused all the more dust to envelop.

“Cough, cough! …Since I have to go meet with Darutowa’s elder, could you do something about this dust in the meantime?”

Ariane covered her mouth with her hand while looking up, displaying a magnificent grimace.

“Mhm. I’ll arrange it so that we can actually sleep on the beds.”

With an exaggerated nod, I took on the role as caretaker.

After Ariane left, I gave the hut another once over. I found a broom hanging beside the fireplace, and began using it to sweep the floor, dusting from start to end.

Once the dust had been cleared from the hut, I took a wooden pail and rag from the corner of the room outside with me. The sky was already dyed almost a crimson red, while the forest was turning into a deep black.

I tried searching in the cabin’s surroundings for a well but couldn’t find one, so I decided to use the water from the moat instead. In fact, there was a stairway leading to the surface of water, so I drew from there.

I returned to the hut with the wooden bucket, and wringed the rag dipped in water. By the time I was finished wiping down the table and chairs, the inside of the cabin was changed

more or less into a rather relaxing space.

“Hrm, something like this…”

I crossed my arms over my chest after I threw away the dirtied water from the wooden pail outside the cottage.

Thereupon, the drawbridge in front of Darutowa’s gate lowered as Ariane made her way back. She was carrying a covered pot and what seemed to be a cloth basket in her hands.

“I got tonight’s dinner.”

She declared while showing the items that she held, her lilac cheeks flushing slightly with a tinge of red as she showed a smile with her coquettish lips. Furthermore, her white hair carrying traces of moisture fluttered in the wind, while a faint flowery fragrance drifted upon the breeze.

“D-did you just get out of a bath, by any chance!?”

In response to my tone that was much louder than usual, she nodded wide eyed in affirmation.

“Didn’t you use the one in my parent’s home in Raratoia? Humans don’t seem to have the habit of taking too many baths.”

“What!? There was a bath in Raratoia…regrettable…”

Ariane’s shocking words led to me unabashedly displaying my lowered head, while she tilted her head to one side, watching the strange scene with a discerning eye.

After coming to a different world, I have yet to take a proper bath. Still, because of this skeletal body, I couldn’t carelessly expose myself to other people.

Unexpectedly there was a bath in a residence in Raratoia…I didn’t notice at all.

I feel like cursing myself for my own carelessness.

“…Do you perhaps want to take a bath?”

“Mhm.”

“…Is there even any meaning of taking a bath with a skeletal body?”

“Impertinence! I was fond of cleanliness since the time I had a human body!”

My protests were lightly brushed aside with a “Let’s go and have our meal already”. After letting out a curt cry of approval, Ponta followed Ariane back to the cottage.

Losing the democratic vote, I reluctantly returned to the cottage.

Ariane held a covered pot filled with bean and bacon soup, while the wrapped basket contained bread and some type of red fruit inside.

While she was pouring soup into a bowl, I surveyed the room once more, but the thing I was looking for didn’t appear in my sight.

“…This cottage doesn’t have a bath.”

“It can’t be helped. Originally, this cottage was built for the purpose of housing humans

who had lost their way around here.”

Towards my complaint, Ariane answered while feeding a piece of fruit to Ponta.

Fifty kilometres west from here was Rhoden Kingdom’s town, Cellist, while thirty kilometres south was the Archduchy of Rinburuto, so the likelihood of a human being chased by a monster and losing their way was high. Due to those circumstances, this cottage was built only to temporarily house lost humans.

As a result, the cottage only had minimum facilities left behind; there weren’t even the crystal lamps like those in the elven houses here.

Only an oil lamp, which acted as a sorry excuse for light, was on the table, producing an unreliable light source.

─If I had stayed in Raratoia, at this time I could have taken a bath…

While the salty taste of the bacon and bean soup entered my mouth, the trip’s new objective was engraved into my mind.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 7

V2 Chapter 7

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Troublesome Things」Part 1

We left the cottage early the following day and headed west of the Annette mountain range. The forest was full of the same fog from yesterday, so we continued our journey on foot.

Occasionally, a monster would bare its fangs and attack, but rather than being a threat they only managed to slow our pace.

Eventually, the sun started to rise and the fog began to clear, which allowed our speed to increase once transfer magic became usable.

But, the true worth of the transfer magic has not been shown on this journey, and the sun was already firmly seating in the west by the time Cellist came into view.

The city was about the same as the first city I visited, Rubierute. The city's surrounding fields included a variety of other crops besides wheat, and a simple trench and earthen wall had been built in the direction of the forest to prevent monster attacks.

On the way to Cellist, Ariane used her cloak to conceal her lilac skin and pointy ears which were the characteristics of dark elves. While I on the other attract as much attention as a knight wearing a black cloak would. On multiple occasions, farmers would stop their work and glance in my direction.

We quietly walked up to Cellist and paid the entrance fee to the two guards before entering the city.

"We should first find an inn to spend the night……"

"You're right."

Ariane replied to my voiced thoughts and began to look around the city. Since it had been night when we snuck into Diento, it was a little unusual to be in a human city in daylight.

Before closing for the night, there were still merchants, and the city was full of miscellaneous sounds as the crowds passed by.

Ponta sat comfortably underneath my black cloak as the crowd naturally parted ways as we approached.

After walking the streets for a while, we came across a group of people wearing leather and metal armor similar to myself standing in front of a certain building. The familiar signboard of the adventurer's association hung above the entrance.

The group of armed adventurers were gathered around another adventure who seemed to have garnered the group's respect.

The booming voices of the men managed to cut through the street noise and I was able to

pick up parts of the conversation.

I lower my walking speed when some of the contents caught my attention.

“Was that how it really happened?”

“No〜, at least it didn’t appear like that to me.”

A rather tall man with a stubby beard, who was equipped with full-body armor and a large round shield was questioning the young man in front of him. The youth in the question was rather slender, was adorned in leather armor and carried a bow on his back. He exaggeratedly threw his shoulders back as he shook his head to express that he didn’t have an answer.

“One of our scouts came across one of them and it immediately ran away.”

“That’s the tenth one in the last seven days〜, it’d be troublesome if a group of them happen to show up.”

“Ah, well they can’t fight if their numbers are too small. Even if traps are set they’ll only snare the dimwitted ones, so it’ll still be a headache.”

“Since the subjugation request for the Haunting wolves has already been sent to us, it’s only a matter of time before the feudal lord’s forces are dispatched.”

When she heard the exchange between the two, Ariane lifted her head in response to something that had been said.

According to the adventure’s conversation, a dangerous group of monsters had appeared in the forest at the base of the Annette mountains, and an urgent quest had been sent out to the subjugate them, at least that was the gist of it.

Judging by the number of adventurers that had been mobilized, the monsters called Haunting Wolves must be a considerable menace.

My only concern was the emergency summons that had been handed down to the adventurers. When you thought about it carefully, all active adventures would be summoned by the emergency call.

The people that were still talking were probably adventures stationed in this city, and whenever there was a sufficient threat the feudal lord had the right to conscript adventurers into active duty……

──Perhaps it would be better to avoid carelessly using my adventurer’s identification card to enter cities.

While I was in the midst of thinking about my future as an adventurer, I felt someone tugging at the back of my cloak, so I stopped and turned my attention towards Ariane since she was the one doing it.

Ponta seemed to notice that I’d stopped walking as she tilted her head and looked down from atop my helmet.

“Arc, I’d like to talk to you about something…… After we arrive at the inn would be alright.”

“Hum, alright. Let’s find an inn right away.”

In accordance with her desire, we searched till we found an inn to enter.

We rented two rooms on the second floor and after receiving the keys from the hostess, I handed one to Ariane.

After taking the key, she lifted her bag and went up the stairs.

After seeing her back disappear, I asked the hostess for directions to our next destination, Hoban.

“Madam, would you happen to know the way to Hoban?”

“Yada yade, Knight-sama.To be called a madam, you’re making me feel shy. It’s truly embarrassing!”

She shook her voluptuous body and voiced a big laughed once she was done speaking, and honestly, she reminded me of a neighborhood aunty.

“Ah, Hoban was it? If you follow the highway that’s beside the forest after leaving through the southern gate, it should be a two day trip by carriage? The confident ones seem to take a shortcut through the forest, but It’s better that you don’t take that option.”

“The Haunting Wolves……?”

“That’s right! There’ve even been rumors that more than ten people went missing in the last seven days. It isn’t unusual for monsters to appear in the forest around here, since they seem to come down from Annette mountain, but this is a troublesome matter.”

The hostess let out a sigh as her shoulders sunk,

The haunting wolves probably appeared along the highway and attacked travelers and merchants alike; rumors surely spread and the number of visitors to Cellist gradually decreased.

With no other option, the feudal lord sent out the emergency subjection request to the adventurers. While the adventurers were enthusiastic about the high-value fur, it seems that things have not been going well.

I heard these things during my chat with the hostess before I decided to retreat to my room.

I sat my luggage beside the bed before removing my cloak and laying down. Ponta, on the other hand, used her magic to fly to the windowsill where she curled up and looked outside.

Shortly after, Ariane announced here presence with a knock before she entered the room.

She still had her gray cloak on when she entered the room, and she only removed the hood once the door was completely closed; shaking her snow-white hair to arrange it properly.

Her lilac skin was exposed, yet her usually strong-willed golden eyes seemed a little gloomy as she looked at me.

Her expression showed that she was worried about something, yet I said nothing and simply waited for her to start.

"……Arc, can we stop by the edge of the forest tomorrow?"

After a period of silence, she asked such a request.

"Hum? We'd reach Hoban if we follow the highway out of the south gate, but I was told it'd be quicker if we cut through the southwest forest…… but that's not your reason is it?"

She nodded at my question before quietly speaking her purpose.

"It has to do with the Haunting Wolves that the adventures spoke of while ago…… I would like to acquire one of their tails if possible…… Could we make a little detour tomorrow?"

"According to our arrangement I am to help Ariane-dono in her endeavours. If you say that a wolf's tail is important, then I'm willing to cooperate."

I gave an exaggerated nod to show that I was willing to comply with her wishes as the person in question had an awkward expression while her cheeks turned a deep shade of scarlet.

The usual bewitching smile and energetic disposition were blown away as she came to give her『Request』, and she still seemed out of it as she offered her reasoning.

"……In fact, it seems like my onee-sama will be married soon, so I was thinking of sending her a veil made out of haunting wolves' tails……"

Her expression turned a little lonely as she spoke of her circumstances with her older sister.

According to her, the tail of the haunting wolf emits a dark blue light and said tail could be weaved into a glowing blue veil, which was a rather expensive present.

However, the tail of the haunting wolf was a rather difficult to obtain because the wolves were able to create multiple illusions of themselves, making it difficult to find the real one during battle.

──A monster capable using the shadow clone jutsu……

Alone, Ariane would be able to deal with a single one of them, but this was a monster that hunted in packs, which meant there would be multiple adversaries.

Since this request of hers wasn't related to the rescue of the elves, she was conflicted because the normally unattainable material was right before her eyes.

Her only motivation was to give her older sister a gift, there was no other reason. Taking into account the strength of the monsters, she couldn't afford to be careless when dealing with them.

"Well, we'll be able to reach Hoban by tomorrow if we cut through the forest at the base of the Annetta mountain range."

"Thank you, Arc."

With tomorrow's plan set, the blush on her lilac skin lessened and she offered me small thanks. I would've liked to see her embarrassed face a bit more, but she was staring back at me with the usual strength in her eyes, so I left it at that.

“Then let us go and buy dinner…… and some preserved food for tomorrow.”

“Kyun!”

Ponta, who had been looking out the window until now, let out a cry when she heard me mutter about food in preparation for tomorrow. She used her wind magic to fly onto my face before climbing onto my helmet.

As we walked down the street into the sunset, I really wondered how Ponta was able to understand human speech.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 8

V2 Chapter 8

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Troublesome Things」Part 2

The following day, we left the inn in Cellist early morning and entered the forest via the south gate.

We originally took the highway along the forest before taking the southwest detour that leads to Mt. Parnassus. Normally you'd need a compass to safely navigate the forest; however, that was only if you weren't accompanied one of the forest people as Ariane did not waver as she advanced.

A thin layer of magic obstructing fog covered the Canada forest, making 【Dimensional Step】unusable.

Even without the fog, there would be no opportunity to show the value of transfer magic as the vegetation thickened the farther we penetrated into the forest's depths.

Like I thought, the forest on this side of Riburuto river is vastly different from the great Canada forest. After all, the great Canada forest is an ancient forest that spreads out from the large old trees in the center.

I passed the time searching the forest for a potential location to use【Dimensional Step】

Around noon, we found a suitable place to rest and enjoyed the preserved food we bought in Cellist yesterday.

The meal consisted of jerky, smoked potatoes, dried apples and walnuts. All of it went for around three silver coins, but the dried apples alone had cost one silver coin. However, since the leather pouches in my luggage bag contained more than one thousand gold coins each, it wasn't that big of a deal.. Instead I'm more troubled by the fact that we've only had to cover the inn charges and food so far.

Ever since we bought the apples, Ponta had been shaking her tail back and forth and was staring quite intensely at them.

When I started dangling the fruit in front of Ponta, Ariana properly scolded me saying "This is pathetic"

While Ponta was ecstatically eating her dire apple, I petted her and ate my own meal.

I tried to used 【Flame】to warm up my smoked potato, but it seems the heat was too high because the potato was reduced to a lump of coal in my hand. Ariane must have skillfully used her spirit magic to warm up her potato because she was triumphantly eating hers next to me.

The thought of practicing to control my magic output crossed my mind as I gnawed on my burnt potato.

Once lunch came to an end, we resumed our trek through the forest under Ariane's guidance.

Only Ponta was not in her usual spot since she was currently taking a nap while being held between Ariane's ample bosom. In many ways, it was an enviable situation.

When I started to wonder how long we had already trekked through the forest, it dawned on me that the birds' chirping and the howls of other animals had ceased, leaving only the rustle of the leaves to break the silence.

When they noticed the situation, Ariane lowered her baggage while Ponta coiled herself around her neck. Even though she was still half asleep, Ponta still managed to ensure that she would not fall off.

However, now is not the time to leisurely comment on such things.

Dropping my luggage bag, I move the Saint Thunder sword to my waist and draw it while simultaneously grabbing the Shield of Titus with my other hand. The sound of rapidly approaching footsteps began to mix in with the sound of the rustling leaves.

They were approaching at a rapid speed from every direction.

In order to cover our blind spots Ariane and I stood back-to-back with each other

For an instant, the undergrowth shook before a pack of large white wolves leaped out.

The wolves were two meters long from head to tail and they were baring their fangs in our direction.

When one of the wolves leaped at me I use my sword to cut it in two, but I didn't feel any resistance at all. Instead, the body of the wolf I cut down completely dissipated, and a new white wolf appeared in its place.

"What!?"

While I was caught off guard, the white wolf managed to get past the range of my sword, thrusting its head forward for a bite. As I took a step back to regain my balances the wolf suddenly started to howl.

"Garruuu!!"

While I tried to regain my balance, I felt a large shock from the hand that I held my shield in as two white wolves threw themselves at it.

I bash the wolves with the shield, but just like before they dissipated, so the only thing achieved was a wide swing. While I was preoccupied, a wolf used the opportunity to bite at my sword hand, frantically trying to rip my arm off.

However, my arm was protected by Saint Armor of Belen so I felt no pain at all, and the wolf quickly tired of this futile endeavor.

I throw out the arm with the wolf on it, sending the wolf flying into the air before slashing the falling wolf with my sword.

However, it seems I put a little too much power into it because my light slash removed one of the wolf's fore-paws with a large spray of blood.

The surrounding illusions and wolves simultaneously took a step back, so I took this chance to begin my counterattack by casting【Flame】from the tip of my sword.

A stream of flames similar to a flamethrower appeared, rapidly increasing in temperature and the surrounding area was charred black.

I had already used【Dimensional step】to transfer next to the beast and plunge my sword into its heart. Because the real wolves responded faster than the illusions, it was easy to distinguish the real ones from the rest of them. Seems like an unexpected weakness had been revealed.

When I looked back, I saw Ariane was surrounded by a group of illusions and wolves, but she seemed to be able to handle herself just fine. She used her spirit magic to create an elevated foothold and surrounded herself with a ring of flames, which guaranteed that they would be injured with every charge.

One of the wolves had a gouged-out eye and a missing leg, which rendered it unable to move. The other wolves had also suffered injuries because I could see red streaks in their fur

As you'd expect from someone trained as a soldier, she was able to fight well even for extended periods of time. On the other hand, I simply took advantage of my high physical prowess; however, it's rather tricky to apply my prowess in this battle.

Though the problem could have been settled with ranged attacks, ever since I've come to this world I hardly tried using my magic skills. If I used them recklessly then there's no telling how much damage I could cause.

However, this was a perfect opportunity──

Believing it to be a clever idea, I looked beyond the group of wolves before me.

There was a rather large wolf behind them that had yet to join the battle. Each time I attack it would retreat, seeming content with observing the situation from the back.

While calmly observing the battle, the boss wolf uttered a cry.

Some of the boss's subordinates moved into a visibly different formation.

The game is afoot.

"Come!"

Setting my glaze besides the boss wolf, I cast the 【Flame】spell and followed it up with【Dimensional step】.

In an instant my form disappeared, causing the boss wolf and his group to tense up.

The moment I was beside the boss wolf, I took a swing with my sword.

However, the boss's instincts were rather sharp as it was able to instantly dodge my attack. But I was not going to let it escape, so I used 【Dimensional step】to travel in the direction the boss dodged.

Since the boss was in the middle of dodging it was carried by the law of inertia rather than its own legs. I raise my sword and bring it down on the wolf in question.

When the boss saw that I had transferred, it tried to twist its body in mid-air, but it was to late as the sword had already pierced its neck, and blood began to flow from its throat.

The spray of blood splattered across the ground. I glanced at the bloody soil before transferring back to Ariane's back.

While I had my sword up ready to continue the fight, all of a sudden the wolves stopped moving.

The next moment all of the wolves turned tail and ran.

The scene of their abrupt retreat left me dumbfounded, but Ariane's call helped me regain my senses.

"Arc! I need at least one more of them!!"

"Got it!"

With a brief reply, I return my shield to my back and fire 【Rock Bullet】in the direction of the fleeing wolves.

The rock hit the ground and kicked up some dust in front of one of the wolves, causing it to stop in its tracks.

"【Dimensional Step】!"

Casting the spell, I transferred behind the stopped wolf and cut off its hind-legs.

The wolf let out a pained cry as it fell to the ground, and I followed up by stabbing my sword into its neck. As I cut into the wolf's neck, a「Gari」sound spread through the area as the wolf breathed it's last.

It seems that I was able to capture the third wolf that Ariane had hoped for.

Still this fight had given me many things to reflect upon.

I needed to practice my fighting techniques a little more. While my mind has an abundant amount of game skills and strategies, I tend to fight in a rather linear manner.

Unlike a certain blue cat robot, I couldn't simply pull secret tools out of nowhere and laugh off emergency situations.

I let out a sigh in my heart while thinking things over, as Ariane sheathed her sword and walked over.

One of the white wolves laid at her feet.

"Thank you, Arc! I don't think I'd have been able to secure three Haunting Wolves alone! With this, I will be able to give my onee-san a good present."

I was momentarily blinded by Ariane's dazzling smile as she thanked me.

My reaction must've puzzled her, because she tilted her head.

Clearing my throat a little, I tried changing the topic by asking her a question.

"So are these really Haunting Wolves? Their tails don't seem to emit much light……"

While I was speaking, I looked at the tail of one of the haunting wolves and noticed that it

was emitting a slight shine.

“That’s because this forest doesn’t contain much mana. The tails will emit a pure blue light once they are taken into the Canada forest.”

She knelt down and inspected the tails while she spoke. Once she was certain that the battle had ended, Ponta uncoiled herself from Ariane ‘s neck and shook out her fur.

“Arc, I’m sorry but could you use 【Transfer Gate】to send these back to Raratoia?”

“Hmm, I don’t really mind, but……”

I looked around as before I continued to speak

“If I use 【Transfer Gate】here, we’ll have to go back to Cellist before we can travel to Hoban again. That’s the closest place with easily memorizable features.”

While 【Transfer Gate】was a long-distance transfer magic, it was a spell that could only connect to places that the user can clearly visualize. Since the scenery of the surrounding forest was rather ordinary, I couldn’t set a clear transfer destination.

“Then, while I bleed out the Haunting wolves and collect the tails, could you go search for a more suitable place to transfer to, Arc?”

“Well, I suppose it will eliminate future troubles…… I’ll search around the edge of the forest for a while.”

I pick up the cloak I had threw on the ground and dusted it off before putting it back over my shoulders.

Sensing the changed atmosphere, Ponta hopped from Ariane’s shoulder to the top of my helmet. Seems like we’ll be doing this together.

For now, let’s search the terrain for a structure or marker that can be set as a return point for 【Transfer Gate】.

If I simply wandered around the forest, I wouldn’t be able to find my way back to Ariane, so I picked a direction and traveled straight ahead.

Occasionally using 【Dimensional Step】, I looked around for a suitable location.

However, there was no suitable place since the only things I found were just more trees, rocks, and dirt.

Ever once in awhile I would spot a bloodstain in the undergrowth. That, and the paw prints on the ground, probably meant that the Haunting Wolves had gone in this direction.

Since I was traveling at a considerable speed, it might not be long before I catch up or even surpass them.

When I look at the sky through the tree branches, I saw that gray clouds were filling the sky, causing darkness to permeate the forest.

When I looked back, I could no longer recognize the forest’s scenery or locate Ariane’s figure at all.

While I had been looking for an appropriate location, I would occasionally break off a

branch and stick it into the ground. If I made the amateur mistake of not marking my path while searching for a transfer location, I would have lost my way the instant I started.

Ponta would cry out from atop my helmet whenever she found some forest nuts. If I tried to follow Ponta’s directions, I’d have immediately lost my way.

While soothing Ponta, I suddenly heard a someone’s voice.

I stopped and listened to my surroundings.

The sounds of rustling leaves, animals barking at something and humans were carried on the wind.

The origin of the human sounds were only a short distance away from the path I was on. I’d have to mark my current location here if I decided to take the detour.

I broke a few branches and create a flashy circular marker out of them.

I can’t afford to waver here.

Putting Ponta back on my head, I turned in the direction of the life signs.

There’s a chance that this path could lead to an inhabited building, so with that thought in my mind, I double-time it.

Eventually, the sounds carried by the wind began to grow louder.

However, rather than the sound of people working, it was the sound of fighting.

The screams of people have emanated from the forest ahead as the unpleasant smells of blood and burnt objects began to fill the air.

Ponta sensed the unpleasant atmosphere and wrapped herself around my neck while I took a deep breath and took a hesitant step in the direction of the fight.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 9

V2 Chapter 9

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

⌈How Unreasonable⌋

The forest path wasn't that wide; there was a ravine to the left, and the thick-rooted trees were set at an incline making it default to see beyond the thicket.

On such a road a large, black, four horse carriage was advancing at a brisk pace.

The carriage had a rather frugal design, but the eyes of a craftsman would have been able to see the finer details of the carriage and judge it to belong to a noble.

Horse-backed knights surrounded the large, black carriage as it traveled along. In combination with the soldiers following behind, there was a total of fifty people protecting the carriage.

Each of them was wearing matching sets of equipment and skillfully advanced without any wasteful movements.

Parallel to the carriage was a horse more excellent than the rest, and the rider was adorned in a prominent set of armor.

The young man, who had neatly combed back hair and a square jaw, was carefully surveying the surrounding area.

This man was a member of one of the seven dukes families of Rhoden, the legitimate heir of the Frivetran family, Lendl Do Frivetran. And he was currently commander of the black carriage's guards.

Considering the noble riding in the carriage, even such an amount of guards could be considered too little. However, if their numbers were any greater speed would've had to have been sacrificed, and since time was of the essence there was no choice but to use fewer people on this expedition.

The purpose of this journey was to get the occupant of the carriage to a secret rendezvous in the Rinburuto Arch Dukedom, so the major towns controlled by lords had to be avoided. Therefore, a different path than the faster highway had been chosen.

On such a path one had to be vigilant of unexpected monster and bandit attacks, so the fifty men present were selected as the best of the best.

Despite that, Lord Lendil wasn't careless in his duties and had everyone maintain their current speed since the last day and a half.

Inside the carriage, a young lady was gazing out of the window at the forest and the gray clouds overhead while letting out a sigh.

This sixteen-year-old girl still had a youthful appearance despite being the second princess of the Rhoden kingdom, yet she carried a ladylike atmosphere.

Juliana tried to calmed herself down by playing with a lock of her dark blonde hair. Her maid, who was ready in waiting with a basket of confectioneries, called out to the princess.

“Juliana-sama, would you like something to eat in order to calm your nerves? Are you perhaps a little anxious about this visit to Rinburuto?”

Juliana’s childhood friend and personal maid, Feruna, offered a genuine smile as the princess shook her in refusal with a troubled expression.

“Even though this latest visit has been kept secret, I can’t shake this uneasy feeling. Our current speed and distance from our destination should prevent any pursuers from catching us, but……”

While the two were talking, the sky outside the carriage darkened to the point where rainfall seemed to be imminent. An vague feeling of unease swirled within my chest, as I looked up at the sky before shutting my eyes when my view of it started to blur.

At that moment, in front of the carriage── screams and shout resounded as the frontline was fired upon.

“Enemy attack!!!”

Besides the carriage, Lendi immediately took command of the unit and ordered them to to be on high alert as the group was reorganized.

The unit acted as one under their leader’s commands and took up a tighter defensive formation with determination in their hearts.

Lendi took the front most position and glared at the enemies in front of them.

Even after leaving the capital in secret, and traveling at breakneck speeds, an ambush had been set up in advance. There were only a small number of reasons that could explain this situation.

Lendi felt irritation at himself because this happened, but now was not the time to let such thoughts cloud his mind.

At a glance it was clear that the attackers weren’t simple bandits, so they must have been sent by either the first or second prince factions. Multiple 【Flame Bullets】 from the flame school of magic were simultaneously cast to attack the unit.

The was no way that simple thieves would be in possession of more than one person capable of using magic.

“The enemies are magicians! Stop their chants! Knights with mithril shields step forward!”

A group of knights readied their shields as they stepped forward while the rearguard began to notch their arrows. All of a sudden something made its way through the unit and managed to hit a member of the rearguard that had been pulling back an arrow.

Screams and unrest ran through the soldiers at the sudden surprise attack, so Lendi tried to rebuild morale with a thundering cry.

Fortunately, the arrow was shot from the depths of the forest, so it had been fired at a

vertical incline and only managed to hit a soldier on the end of the row.

Almost a hundred people appeared from the depths of the forest. While they had the appearance of thieves, their movements were those of trained mercenaries.

“Thirty men fall back into a tighter defensive formation! Don’t let any scoundrels approach!! Everyone else form a line in front of the carriage! Protect it by any means!!”

The unit started splitting as commanded.

They were at a numerical disadvantage, and due to the threat of powerful magic attacks, the only viable strategy was a forward charge to get the carriage through the blockade.

However, the movements of some of the soldier were duller than usual, causing a delay in the formation’s construction.

While the guards struggled to form into two squads, the mercenary leader in the rear twisted his lips into an amused sneer.

“Fire the arrows once more!”

When the man gave his order, men with bows simultaneously notched their arrows.

As the arrows were fired, the knights and soldiers formed a shield defensive formation around the carriage preventing any fatal wound from being inflicted.

However, the soldiers that received the volley and suffered injuries had clearly lost some mobility and it was certain that the formation would crumble without perfect cooperation.

“Shave away the defenses!! Our goal is the princess’s life!!!”

At the man’s second order, the hundred bandit-like men gave a high-spirited shout as they broke into a dead run. The guards desperately tried to maintain formation as they collided with the mercenaries on this small forest path.

As the movements of the guard grew duller, they started to fall one after another and they no longer looked like the elites that had been selected to guard the princess.

“Cox-sama, are the poor movements of the guards your doing?”

The leader of the mercenaries was called out by a stump of a man that was dressed in the grubs of a priest. At the divested state of the guardsmen, the little man floated a smile unbefitting clergymen as his associate answered his question.

“Bishop Borane, the secret lies within this ”

The little clergyman called Bishop Borane had raven colored hair atop his head, a stubby beard, sharp eyes, and a vulgar smile more fitting for a thief than a priest.

But, the sword at his waist and the pristine leather armor wrapped around his body were articles that bandits could never possess.

Bishop Borane received an arrow that the man had held out.

The man name was Cox Carlo De Brutus.

He was heir to the Brutus Dukedom of the Rhoden’s several Duke families and was following the strategy his father, a member of the first prince’s faction, had outlined to

him.

The arrow which had been handed to him appeared to be an ordinary arrow to bishop Borane, so he glanced at Cox in order to hear his purpose.

“You see, the arrowheads are dipped in poison. However, the Giant Basilisk poison used is a rather hard commodity to come by. While it can’t deliver instantaneous death, it ensures that even the movement of elite soldiers will be dulled.”

When Cox revealed the secret, Barone’s expression reflected genuine amusement.

“Haha! Cox-sama seems to be well prepared.”

“These only became available a few days ago. Since there was little time only a small number could be prepared, so once we return I’ll be sure to prepare more.

As the two chatted and laughed, they focused their attention on the collapse of the defensive formation and the man desperately trying to get the get the carriage to move forward.

Lendl, the commander of the guards of said carriage, glanced at the collapsed figures of his men and could only curse the current situation.

The reason being that he never imagined that the rear of the defensive formation would collapse.

The enemy magicians from a while ago now used the opportunity to push the mithril-shielded knights back. However, the magicians fell back as the ambush squad of nearly 50 men closed in.

In no time at all the rear had completely collapsed, leaving the guards little time to act.

“All remaining knights, prepare your 『Explosive magic crystals』!!”

The knights that had been blocking the magicians’ assault and the ones that had been fighting off the enemies on the front-line sheathed their weapons and pulled a sphere from a pouch on their waists.

When the enemy saw this strange behavior their eyes bulged as they tried to rush the presumably retreating group, resulting in the path being blocked up and preventing them from seeing beyond the backs of those in front of them.

“Bayataroo!! Withdraw!! Withdraw!!”

That holler was raised as the enemy tried to back paddle when they saw what Lendl was holding in their direction.

“Fire!!!!”

『Explode. Slay thine enemies─』

At Lendl’s command, the knights grasped the sphere in their hands and simultaneously spoke the activation phrase for the magic tools.

Then they proceeded to throw the spheres in an arc causing them to land right if front of the enemy’s main formation. A moment later an earsplitting sound and explosion rocked the area and blew away a few enemies.

The front of the formation fell apart, leaving the magicians defenseless as Lendl took the opportunity to ride his horse through the opening.

“Breakthrough at one point! Position yourselves in front of the carriage!! Follow my lead!!!”

When Lendl gave the order, he gripped his horse’s neck and lead the battle charge.

Even with the enemy firing 【Fire Bullets】and 【Rock Bullets】, he skillfully plunged into the enemy forces with a mithril shield and a sword in hand.

While cutting down his opponents from atop his horse, the knights behind him followed suit.

When a hole began to form in the enemy line a 【Fire Bullet】struck the ground in front of Lendl’s horse causing it to scream and fall, throwing Lendl off in the process.

The knight behind Lendl’s falling horse quickly moved out of the way, as the enemies descended on the fallen beast and thrust their swords into its stomach and throat.

Lendl tried to rise after he’d been thrown off, but his broken leg prevented him from standing.

A man that held a short spear in front of the struggling Lendl offered him a vulgar smile as he thrust his spear into Lendl’s stomach.

“Guha!!”

While coughing up blood, Lendl desperately tried to maintain concussions as he held his hand over his wound and looked back at the carriage that held the master he should be protecting. His eyes reflected only death, as a large thief-pretender forcefully threw the carriage door open.

The man that opened the door had a bloody sword in hand, and was trying to take a swing at the maid that rushed from the carriage with a dagger in hand. Panicked, the man blocked it with his left arm.

The dagger deeply penetrated the man’s left arm, and in his anger he hit the maid using his full strength.

“Fucking women!!”

The maid Feruna’s body and face suffered the full blunt of the man’s assault causing her to fall down on the spot unable to move.

The man pulled out the dagger that had been stuck in his arm and forcibly stabbed his sword into Feruna’s chest.

“Gaha!”

Her consciousness quickly faded away as blood began to pool inside the carriage. The man proceeded to kick the maid out of the way.

“Noooooooo!!!! Ferunaaaaaaaa!!!”

At the death of her childhood friend and maid, Juliana didn’t care that her luxurious dress was soiled when she tried to cradle Feruna’s body.

However, she was impaled by the man when he stabbed the sword still covered in Feruna's blood into Juliana's chest.

Juliana's expression was one of confusion, her eyes continued to bulge while the sword sunk deeper into her chest.

Her face took on a teary eyed and agonized expression, her voice refused to leave her lips and only blood managed to come out.

Before long, her limbs lost all of their strength and she hung on the wall of the carriage, a haziness began to seep into the princess's mind and the passion reflected in her eyes started to flicker out.

After the man glanced at his handiwork, he pulled the sword from the girl's chest and wiped the blood off with the princess's dress before sheathing it. He then carefully removed a necklace that hung from the princess's neck.

He exited the carriage with the necklace as if it were something important.

As the guard's last resistance began to be snuffed out, this situation was reaching its conclusion.

Coming from behind, Cox observed the last few survivor of the guard detail before issuing orders.

"Alright start acting like bandits! The valuables you take will be added to your reward!"

At his order, the soldiers dressed as bandits let out joyous shouts as they began to strip the guards of all of their valuables and weapons.

While looking at the soldiers with a bit of envy, Cox addressed the small man standing next to him, who appeared to be restless for some reason.

"Bishop Borane, is everything alright?"

"I-Is that so? No, I'll take you word on it……"

As Bishop Borane was watching the men prepare to search for loot, a joyful expression appeared on his face. Standing next to the bishop, he could only mutter silently "How vulgar" to himself.

"Cox-sama, the keepsake of her highness Juliana."

While Cox was speaking with such venom, the large man responsible for killing the princess approached and quietly spoke up.

The man respectfully knelt down when he presented the necklace that he had taken from the princess's neck a few moments ago.

"Tiresome. The princess was such disappointing being…… However, to bring along magic explosive crystals. The damages to our side were considerably heavier thanks to that."

Upon receiving the necklace from his subordinate, Cox's lips twisted into an amused smile.

The necklace was one of the two items that the late queen sent to her daughters. At the

center was a large jewel entwined in a golden flower and the band was studded with smaller gems.

The necklace was carefully wrapped in a silken cloth and put in his breast pocket. However, just as Cox was about to give the signal to withdraw.

““Gyaaaaaaaaaa!!!!””

A death cry rang out in the general area where the soldiers collected their war trophies.

When Cox turned in the direction of the screams, he saw a group of large white wolves jumping out of the forest, and his terrified subordinates scattering in all directions.

No, the sight before him was that of humans becoming the prey.

The wolves growled excessively, giving the surrounding men a close up view of their fangs before they went in for a bite.

Although they were over two meters tall, the wolves were rather agile, and their fangs and strong jaws would be the end of any soldier that acted carelessly.

The magicians tried to fight back using magic, but the wolves detected the danger and before long nearly all the magicians had been torn to shreds.

Those who tried to fight them off with swords found that the wolves’ bodies dispersed when they were fatally injured before the soldiers heads were torn off from behind.

The people that sent Juliana’s group to hell a little while ago were now dragged into a hell of their own, and Cox could only stare in shock.

“Haunting Wolves……:

The large man beside Cox spoke the name of hell’s messengers in utter amazement.

Hearing the monsters’ name cause Cox mind to start back up and he started to give out orders.

“All troops withdraw!!! Regroup at the rendezvous site!!! Heavy knight units, raise your shields and toss away all other supplies!! Release the horse as decoys!!”

The soldiers that heard the orders retreated as fast as possible.

The heavy knight unit dismounted and removed their luggage from their horses. After whipping the sides of the horses, the knights took out a shield from their bags. To increase the speed of the retreat, the small number of people with large shields joined into a defensive formation.

“Retreat!! Retreat!!!”

Since time was precious and he still needed to survive Cox gave the order to retreat again and again.

“Shit! How many of them are there?!!

One of the soldiers who had managed to survive until now was attacked by fifteen Haunting Wolves, but it was unknown how many were actually real.

“I’ve heard that Haunting Wolves can control two or three illusions at the same time.

Perhaps they can make five or more though……”

Cox let out a curse as a nearby subordinate gave his thoughts on the matter.

Holding up shields while retreating, the few that managed to escape the death god’s grasp were forming into large groups reminiscent of their actual military units. The joyful expressions they had while hunting for treasures were absent now.

As for the haunting wolves, they left the bodies around the carriage alone since they weren’t showing any signs of life.

Before long, the site could no longer be recognized as a place where an ambush took place. Once they withdrew from the forest, the tension finally broke, causing the soldiers to collapse one after another.

Cox sighed as fatigue finally overtook him and the feelings of tension he had been feeling lessened. He turned to look at the remnants of his troops.

However, he could only curse and sigh again at the fact that the battle with the guards and the attack of the haunting wolves had cost him more than half of his men.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 10

V2 Chapter 10

⌈Reasoning the Unknown Away⌋

Under the dark and cloudy sky, the trees cast a gloomy shadow across the forest as I advanced in the direction of the screams I heard a while ago.

The smell of blood gradually began to mix with the wind, and the rumblings had quieted down. Only the sounds of my feet moving through the thicket could be heard now.

Before long, the path opened up to a road stretching in-between the forest and a ravine.

I now stood at the edge of the ravine that was about three meters deep.

A numerous amount of corpses were spread about the road and the stench of blood permitting the entire area.

In many places, chunks of earth had been blown away and a few smoldering fires were still burning here and there. An intense battle seems to have taken place recently.

There were five large wolves feasting on the corpses strewn around this battlefield. They gnawed away at the bodies, and the unpleasant sound of bones shattering echoed throughout the area.

The five wolves had to be the surviving Haunting Wolves that we defeated some time ago, since some of them bore the injuries Ariane had inflicted upon them.

The Haunting Wolves were apparently scavengers. Once they noticed me appearing from the thicket, they raised their heads and bared their fangs at me while gradually retreating.

The unwelcoming hostility of the wolves continued for quite a while.

“Mawa!!!”

When I raised my hands in the sky and charged at full speed while shouting, my cloak fluttering in the wind, the Haunting Wolves turned tail and ran.

My loud shout was unexpectedly effective; even Ponta was surprised by it as she coiled herself around my neck, giving me a wool scarf before I even realized it.

Apologizing under Ponta’s cries of protest, I once again took in my surroundings while stroking her puffed up fur.

At the center of the bodies was a large black carriage, and the surrounding heap of bodies were knights in fine armor. They apparently tried to protect it.

The whole scene gave off the impression of a noble and their guards.

The four horses tied to the front of the carriage seemed to be dead, but there were two frightened unharnessed ones neighing and scratching at the ground with their hooves close by.

In addition, a considerable number of dead people who appeared to be bandits were

scattered throughout the area, and I have yet to see anyone still breathing.

When I saw the Haunting Wolves from awhile ago, I believed that what happened here was due to Ariane's and my own involvement, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

I lightly jumped off the edge into the three-meter deep ravine, being sure not to step on anyone as I got a closer look.

The bodies wearing the matching armor of the guards mainly had sword and arrow wounds. Almost none of them had bite marks from the Haunting Wolves.

There were a couple bodies that had been charred black, probably as a result of magic attacks, but for the most part they were killed by human weapons.

While I was thinking such things, I turned towards the bandits that had been attacked by the Haunting Wolves. The guards had most likely been dead by the time the bandits had been attacked.

The bandit bodies next to the guards died by the sword, but most of them had bites from the Haunting Wolves. One person's arm was torn from the shoulder while another one laid on the ground with his stomach ripped out.

There were bodies that were dressed like Shinto priests whose heads were missing, leaving behind nothing but a gruesome corpse.

While mulling over the cruelty of the world and the gods, I made my way to the carriage, avoiding the heaps of corpses as best I could.

The door of the carriage was thrown open, and a woman dressed in maid clothing had fallen out of it. The carriage was covered in blood, and a dead noble girl in a luxurious dress was laying on the floor.

The blood was soaked into her long blonde hair and trailing down her lips while her chest had a wound that was clearly caused by a sharp weapon.

Based on the position of the guards and her location in the carriage, this girl seemed to have been rather important.

Her blood was still warm and there was still color in her skin, so she couldn't have been dead for long.

I could even see the traces of tears in the corner of her eyes, yet her half closed eyes were vacant, leaving the girl with a sleeping expression.

"Kyua〜……"

Ponta let out a sorrowful cry while still being wrapped around my neck.

Stroking Ponta's head, I wound up thinking about one of my magic skills.

I know that it would be pointless to use healing magic on a dead person. However, the pope and bishop classes included revival magic.

It was a basic spell in the game, so the question was if it would work in this world like it does in the game.

If' I'm not mistaken, the intermediate class bishop possessed the spell 【Revival】 that

resurrected a person with 10% of their health. Even if one was brought back to life with 10% of their health after being fatally injured, if their wounds weren't healed immediately they'd wind up dying again.

The high level Pope class has the spell 【Resurrection】that completely healed the target, but I wonder how the spell would work in reality.

An unpleasant feeling crept up on me at the thought of the young girl's untimely death, so I placed my hand over her body and prepared myself to cast the magic spell.

"【Resurrection】"

The magic activated without a problem, as her body began to emit a dazzling, golden light and the wound on her chest began to close itself. Once the golden light faded, no injuries could be seen anywhere on the girl's body.

The spell is supposed to revive the target with full health in the game, but it may not replace the lost blood in real life. The carriage was still covered in blood and her dress was still dyed crimson red

When I placed my hand against the girl's artery there was a definite pulse; however she was still rather pale and had yet to awaken.

She was breathing normally as I took her out of the carriage and placed her down in front the coachman's seat.

I picked up the body of the maid and place her next to the carriage before brushing some dirt off of her and casting 【Resurrection】.

Once again, a golden light was emitted from her body and all of the wounds began to heal.

She was revived without a hitch, but like the girl before had yet to wake up.

Resurrection seemed possible with this magic, but it doesn't seem to provide an immediate awakening like it does in the game.

I can only pray that they don't become monsters that hungered for the flesh of the living after their revival, like in a certain Stephen King novel……

While it was good that I could revive them, leaving two girls alone in the forest would only result in getting them killed, and it would be senseless to send them back to the river Styx.

I walked up to some of the bodyguards of the person I revived and started to cast 【Resurrection】on them while avoiding the bodies that were dressed like bandits.

However, I discovered that the revival magic couldn't resurrect everyone.

When I cast 【Resurrection】on an extremely damaged corpse, the wound healed but the person itself didn't revive. If the body was completely burnt or the head was missing, the revival magic would misfire.

I could only offer my condolences to the men dressed as priests.

Even if they did revive, they'd probably die right after.

The general cause of death was blood loss due to massive hemorrhaging, but there were a

few whose cause of death I couldn’t determine.

A few of the soldiers had fatal arrow wound in their chests, and after they revived they would breathe for a while before dying in their sleep.

There may be multiple stipulations of revival magic, but at the moment, I was still unaware of them.

As I placed my hands on my hips and looked around, I felt that the revival of everyone took quite a bit of energy. A total of thirty more people had been revived, enough bodyguards left to safely traverse the forest.

It seems that I cast revival magic a little too much, as I felt a little languid after using such a large amount of magic.

The rapid sensation of spells wasn’t enough to deplete my mana, but without the game interface, I had to rely of my senses instead of a number gauge.

The lost mana probably won’t be a problem thanks to the effect of 『Overcoat of the Night Sky』 which I was currently wearing.

The 『Overcoat of the Night Sky』 has the effect of restoring a set amount of mana over time, that amount increasing if you stand still.

The location around the carriage reeked of blood, yet as the sole standing knight, I remained unaffected by it.

I think it would be best to observe them after their revival, so I used 【Dimensional Step】 to move back to the top of the ravine and crouched down to hide in the thicket.

Thanks to my metal armor I stand out in a forest, so I had to break off tree branches to cover my helmet.

I was able to observe the carriage and its surrounding through a small gap without much of an issue.

I’ve ensured that they can now leave safely──.

Juliana’s Group POV

A black abyss seemed to continue on endlessly, yet from its deeps, a consciousness was gradually surfacing. The faded sense of all her limbs began to return and the unpleasant smell and firm sensation cause her to open her eyes fully conscious.

She struggled to breathe in air as if her lungs had been filled with mud, she even broke into a brief coughing fit before finally taking a look around.

She laid her eyes upon the blood-stained carriage that she had been in a little while ago.

Princess Juliana felt lightheaded as she shook her head trying to clear away her confusion, then looked down at her own body.

Her luxurious dress was soiled with dyed blood and had a rather large hole in the chest area.

The scene of the sword piercing her chest flashed through her mind and caused her to grasp at her chest in a panic. However, even though there was a hole in the place she had been stabbed, the skin under her fingertips was the same as normal, with no wound to be found.

"……Feruna."

Juliana suddenly called out the name of her closest confidant and maid before frantically looking around.

Before long her mind became clear and she set her eyes on the carriage in front of her and crawled her way towards it.

She laid her eyes on the figure of the seemingly calm maid, Feruna. There was a hole in a similar area of her clothes as her own, and she fearfully glanced at her chest.

However the beautiful skin that peeped through the hole in her clothes wasn't enough to confirm whether or not there was a sword wound. Juliana moved in closer to Feruna and calmly looked down at her chest, then tears of joy ran down her face as she let out a sigh of relief.

What on earth had happened, what hadn't happened…… These questions that swirled in her heart were trivial compared to the knowledge that Feruna was safe.

Looking around she noticed that the ground was hollowed out and burnt. The surrounding area took on the aspects of hell, as the bodies of the Juliana's guards and knights were strewn about along with those of the enemies. There was even the occasional charred black corpse throw in.

She took in the miserable spectacle without being able to speak, and with another sigh, Juliana looked back down at Feruna as her eyelids began to slightly lift open.

"Feruna! You're alright…… you're safe now……"

She seemed to react to princess Juliana's sobs, as she fully opened her eyes and slowly turned her head until she locked onto Juliana's figure.

"Juliana-sama…… where am I……?"

Here mind finally began to clear as she slowly rose up and looked around.

Seeing the dreadful surroundings she unintentionally looked at Juliana as she remembered the details of the surprise attack that had occurred resently.

"Juliana-sama are you hurt? Have you been injured?!"

Since Feruna became a little distraught, Juliana had to hold her lips shut in order to question her.

"I'm alright. Are you uninjured?"

At the princess's words Feruna remembered what had happened to her and started to pat down her body before casting a questioning glance at princess Juliana.

"Juliana-sama, how was I saved?"

That was a question that Juliana could not answer.

If the memory burnt into her mind was accurate, then the two of them should have been dead.

“I don’t understand it either, I just woke up a little while ago……”

Juliana’s well-groomed eyebrows lowered as she began to frown a little.

All of a sudden, the shout of a familiar male voice paused their conversation.

“Princess!! Feruna-dono! You two are safe!”

The owner of said voice was the acting commander of the princess’s guard unit on this journey to the Rinburuto Arch dukedom, Lord Lendl.

When Lendl saw princess Juliana near the carriage he ran up to her and started to bow so deeply that his head touched the ground.

“Princess, I’m so grateful that you’re safe! I am to blame for this latest blunder, truly──”

“Sir Lendl…… now is not the time for such things.”

When Juliana interrupted Lendl’s apology, she slowly started to stand and stared down at the kneeing Lendl as a strong wind blow through her long dark blonde hair.

The kneeling Lendl slightly raised his head at the princess’s words and waited for instructions.

“The scale and speed of the enemy’s reaction exceeded our expectations by far this time, there was nothing more that could have been done. By the graces of the gods, the three of us have managed to come out of this alive…… Rather than grieving over the things that happened, we should focus on what we can do now.”

“As you command!”

When princess Juliana resolutely looked ahead she wiped away the tears from the edges of her eyes and tried to speak to Lendl in a positive tone.

In view of the princess’s strong will, Lendl lowered his head again while receiving her orders.

“We are still halfway from Rinburto’s border. Since the remnants of the bandits may still be nearby, preparations will start immediately. As originally planned, we’ll bypass Hoban and head directly to Rinburuto. Feruna please offer your assistance.”

“Yes! Certainly!

“Of course, Juliana-sama.”

The three people’s determination was renewed when it was decided that they were to achieve their original purpose; however, a spectacle started to occur before them.

All around the battlefield, one after another, the fallen soldiers started to rise from the field of corpses.

Lendl quickly placed his hand on his sword and tried to hide princess Juliana and Feruna behind his back as he took a fighting stance.

It’s common knowledge that undead would occasionally raise up and attack the living in

places with high levels of miasma such as battlefields.

However, it was unheard of for undead to raise in less than a day, and this place was in the middle of a heavily traversed forest. Having never personally been to a miasma filled location, the scene before him confused Lendl.

“Please wait, Sir Lendl!”

His confession was interrupted by princess Juliana’s shout from behind him. Thanks to that Lendl was fully able to grasp the spectral before him in its entirety.

He could hardly believe the sight before his eyes as the subordinates that should have perished in the battle, were getting up as if they had simply overslept.

Behind him, Juliana’s and Feruna’s eyes were glued to the scene before them in disbelief.

“Commander Lendl! You were safe!?”

The subordinates that saw Lendl ran up to him, even those that he was sure had died in the previous battle.

“Shouldn’t I be the one asking about your well-being……?”

After looking his subordinates up and down, he found that they were the same people he had spoken with on multiple occasions, not undead. The man standing at the head of the group had an arm stained with blood, yet no injury could be seen on him. He only had a slightly pale complexion.

However, there were a few members that hadn’t been saved.

Some of the people dejectedly looked at their burnt comrades, while others were trying to wake up their dead friends as if they were just sleeping.

“I was certain that I died…… What happened?”

The leading subordinate asked the question as he checked over his body

The man who had started to gather around began to laugh and shed tears once they confirmed each others’ safety.

The scene could have been considered a miracle.

“Sir Lendl……”

Lendl vacantly stared at the scene in utter amazement, until Juliana called out to him and broke him from his stupor.

When he looked back at princess Juliana he understood the intent reflected in her eyes, so he called out to his still restless subordinates.

“Listen! Her highness Juliana is about to speak!”

He proceeded to move aside and dropped to one knee with his head lowered.

The revived soldiers knelt in a similar fashion to Lendl upon hearing his shout.

“Everyone, on this occasion we were unquestionably defeated by an enemy we couldn’t match. However, the gods had mercy on us, even though there are some that were called to the heavens and haven’t returned……”

There were approximately thirty men listening to her words, meaning that out of the fifty men she had been entrusted to, twenty had fallen.

Many soldiers became teary eyed as the princess's words while others were trembling on the spot.

"However, we received a revelation from the gods that we should carry on! Now is not the time to remorse, it is the move forward! We have to repay the gods for the mercy we have been given. For the sake of those no longer among us, we must reach Rinburuto!"

"Ahhhhhhhhhh――――――――!!!!"

The soldiers shouted a battle cry at the princess's words.

Lendl stood up at once and began to hand out instructions to the knights and soldiers in rapid succession.

"Change out the carriage's horses! Secure as many of the escaped horses as possible! In the worst case, only find enough to get the carriage going! Find any weapon you can use!"

Each of the soldiers began to carry out Lendl's instructions without hesitation, having already reasoned away the unknown.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 11

V2 Chapter 11

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

⌈Strategic oblivion⌋

It was about thirty minutes before the supposed princess' group was able to get the carriage going in the eastern direction, and before long their figures had shrunken into the distance.

I cast aside the branches I had been using to conceal my head.

Based on the audible snoring, Ponta seemed to be taking a nap atop of my helmet.

Standing up slowly as not wake her, I let out a deep sigh in order to calm my heart.

Despite that, I could not shake my cold sweat and my gaze swims when I looked in the direction of the carriage.

What I thought was a simple noble girl was actually a member of some royal family. I revived them with magic and it was taken as a miracle of the gods.

When I became calm enough to think, I realized that resurrection was a highly sought after magic, hell even a pair of brothers searched after the philosopher's stone in order to obtain it.

A human would usually be brought back as an undead and given that there were no noticeable side effects, they weren't necessarily crazy in their beliefs.

But the opaque conditions means that I can't simply bring anyone back to life.

The strain I felt casting the magic also has to be considered.

Although revival and recovery magic were commonplace in games, if I overdid it here I'd probably be recognized as a saint or something. No, if handled incorrectly it could result in the formation of a new religion. Then there'd be the possibility of the new religion starting a holy war that engulfs the whole world.

It would be different if it was a village girl or a small noble's daughter that was resurrected after an accident, but the situation was a hundred time worse since it was a murdered princess that had been revived.

One thing is certain…… history has forever been altered.

――No, in an era like this, royalty will surely have a lot of princesses, so history shouldn't be affected too much, ……I think.

In addition, since there were no witnesses I should be safe── still it's probably for the best that I avoid using revival magic a much as I possibly can.

Inside of my brain, a national assembly was rallying for the dismissal of addressing this issue.

“Hmm. Nothing happened.”

The motion won with an overwhelming majority and within a moment, the problem was tossed into oblivion.

While not jostling Ponta I turned around and headed back the way that had came.

A good amount of time has passed since left Ariane back in the forest. Following the markers I left behind, I used 【Dimensional Step】to dash through the forest.

Before long, I came across three large white wolves that were tied up by their hind legs and hanging from a tree branch with their head pointed at the ground.

At the base of the tree from which the wolves hung, sat a dark elf woman that seemed to be sulking a little.

She sat with her knees up causing her twin peaks to be pushed out more than usual; I thought that she looked happy upon seeing me, but she returned to sulking a moment later.

“OI! Where have you been?”

“Uh, sorry. I got a little lost along the way.”

I pushed the undergrowth aside and apologize to her before making my way over to the tree with the wolves.

“The blood has finished draining from these…… Please take us to Raratoia.”

“Ah, that’s right! I was supposed to be looking for a suitable transfer location……”

I had forgotten that Ariane had asked for us to temporarily return to Raratoia and that that was the reason I had left in the first place.

At my statement, she began to cross-examine me with a stunned expression, as if she simply couldn’t believe such a thing.

Her criticism was understandable, I went out to find a proper location marker about an hour ago.

“Wait, I haven’t finished…… I forget my purpose because I was preoccupied with returning. This time, I’ll look for a proper location marker.”

While defending myself, I shifted my attention to the Annette mountain that peeked above the trees, to quickly inform her of my next aim.

Entrusting her with the still sleeping Ponta, I forcefully dashed through the forest with 【Dimensional step】.

Hoping that her troubled heart would be healed by Ponta’s sleeping face, I started looking for a site that could be used for 【Transfer Gate】.

Ten minutes later I found myself in a large field.

At the center of the field was a solitary large tree surrounded by bushes.

Despite being located in the middle of a forest, this was rather impressive scenery.

I glanced at the towering tree and noticed that I was the only person here to witness the flowers blooming.

It was similar to those found in Japan, and if this had been my former world then it would've been surrounded by a Shinto straw festoon, no doubt about that.

"Hmm, there doesn't seem to be a problem here."

While muttering to myself in the forest, I burnt this mysterious place into my memory. Fortunately, it was not that hard to do thanks to this scenery being so impressive and I quickly set off.

From the clouded sky above, the forest raindrops slowly began to fall.

After we transfer to Raratoia, our trek through the forest might be impeded by the weather.

I used 【Dimensional Step】 to return to the place where I left Ariane and Ponta and proceeded to walked out of the thicket.

Only to catch sight of Ariane burying her face in Ponta's belly fur.

"Ponta-chan, your stomach so soft～♪"

"Kyan☆ Kyan☆"

Ariane was speaking to the the surprisingly ticklish Ponta in a coaxing voice that was unusual for her, and both appeared to be having fun. I watched this scene play out in silence for a while before Ariane finally noticed my presence.

"A-Arc! Y-You're back early! Did you find a location marker?!"

Even from this distance I could see that her lilac cheeks were dyed red and not only did she stutter, her voice even cracked towards the end.

However, despite seeing her usually awe-inspiring figure caught off guard, I strived to answer her as calmly as I could.

"Um, there's a place just up ahead. After taking the Haunting Wolves back to Raratoia, our continued travel will depend on the weather."

"T-That's right. Thanks to your transfer magic we won't have to traverse the forest during bad weather."

Ariane cleared her throat in order to rearrange her emotions and gave me an affirmative nod.

Ariane used spirit magic to cover up the simple ditch that had been used to collect the Haunting Wolves' blood.

The wolves were then cut down from the tree, and I help Ariane neatly arrange them.

Although they were slightly lighter thanks to the blood being drained, Ariane must possess considerable strength to be able to lift the corpses of the two meters long wolves.

Ponta sniffed at the Haunting Wolves before retreating behind my legs and peeking out at them.

"Well, let's transfer to Raratoia. Ponta, I'll rub your belly later."

"Kyun!"

For some reason, Ariane gave me the cold shoulder when I said that.

She folder her arms and averted her gaze; even her cheeks puffed out.

There seems to have been a failure in communication. Wait, I was half successful judging by the Ponta's joyful expression.

Ponta hopped to her usual location as I prepared to cast the magic.

"【Transfer Gate】!"

Since all of us, as well as the Haunting Wolves, would have to be transferred, I gave a little shout as I cast the spell.

Suddenly the usual pale three-meter wide magic formation expanded out to four meters as the spell activated.

The surroundings went black for an instant as the forest landscape changed to the one in front of the mansion that I stayed in a few days ago.

When I glanced down at my feet, I saw that the Haunting Wolves that had been laid on the ground had properly transferred.

Shouting when I cast 【Transfer Gate】seemed to increase the size of the magic formation; something that'll be helpful whenever I have to transfer large loads.

However, I'll need to practice my power output in the future.

"It's already began to rain here."

Just as Ariane said, the rain that was on the verge of beginning in the forest was already pouring down quite hard over here.

Standing outside in this rain, I could hear the sound of a suikinkutsu ringing out.

"Since I have to go get some help for carrying and dismantling these things, you can wait in the house, Arc."

Without waiting to hear my reply, she ran off to a congregation of houses in the village.

I see her back as she left before staring down at the animals at my feet.

The tails that were normal looking in the forest were now shining the pale blue color that was the supposed characteristic of the Haunting Wolves.

Watching the tails under the dark and cloudy sky made them seem more mysterious.

The fabric made from them would certainly make for a good gift.

While I thought about such things, Ponta began to shake out her fur that had been soaking in water all this time.

"Oh, sorry. I should probably let you inside after all."

After knocking on the mansion's door, a response came from inside as Glenys curiously opened the door.

"Oh? You're back early."

"Well, Ariane-dono obtained an item for her older sister's wedding. So we came back to

drop it off here.”

While explaining the situation to Glenys, I looked back at the Haunting Wolves in the garden and her eyes followed along.

“Oh, the excellent Haunting Wolf. Furthermore, there are three of them.”

Glenys admired the Haunting Wolves that were laid out in the garden while I looked up as the rain began heavier.

“Please come inside. Did Ariane go and ask the hunters for help?”

“It’s as you said.”

I entered the mansion I left the other day, and she guided me to the dining room on the second floor to serve tea.

I took off my helmet and began sipping tea. It was taken without any sugar, and its taste was similar to black tea.

In the next seat, Ponta was desperately trying to fix her wet fur.

I drunk my tea while watching her, and by the time I reached my third cup Ponta had begun to doze off.

“It’s rather late for this child. Since it’s raining outside, why don’t you stay here tonight.”

As she said, the rain has begun to fall in earnest as raindrops tapped against the dining room’s window, and despite it only being about eight o’clock it was already dark outside.

It might take some time before Ariane returned with the hunters to take care of the Haunting Wolves.

Since we came back to Ariane’s parent’s house, it’d be a good opportunity to accomplish one of my objectives.

With my determination alight, I call out to Glenys.

“Glenys-dono. This place has a bath in it right, so would it be alright if I used it? Of course, I’ll pay the price of boiling the water.”

“The bath? I don’t particularly mind. But there’s not really a price for it…… go ahead? Are you alright?”

She replied to my heartfelt plea for a bath with her head tilted to the side in confusion.

“Putting aside the fact that you are a skeleton and lack the need for warmth, how about bathing together with Ponta?”

“Hmm. I supposed it would be good to wash Ponta every once in awhile.”

I carry the sleeping Ponta as Glenys lead me to the bathroom on the first floor, that was invisible from the mansion’s front door.

Water was drawn from the river and stored in a container so that it could be heated by the bath furnace housed beneath the wooden tub. Apparently the furnace was a modern magic tool that used magic stones as fuel.

Only members of noble families seem to have access to the magic tool and water

containers.

I entered the familiar looking bath with Ponta, and we stayed in the bath till my bones were warmed to the core and Ariane had returned.

Wearing the traditional garbs of the elves with Ponta on my skull and a towel over my shoulder, I went back to meet the returning Ariane in style.

“You seemed rather relaxed…… did something good happen to your boney body?”

“Yes! Baths are the refreshments of life!”

My answer was full of smiles; unfortunately I lacked the facial muscles to express my joy, so she simply replied with a tired “That’s good”.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 12

V2 chapter 12

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Hoban Visit」Part 1

The next day, I used 【Transfer Gate】 to transfer from Raratoia to the large tree save point that I had set yet yesterday.

After that, there weren't any problems and we managed to reach Hoban before noon.

In fact, there wasn't much distance from the attack site I had stumbled upon yesterday.

The city of Hoban was located within a large plain between the Annette mountain to the north and the Parnassus mountain to the south. At the base of the each mountain, a forest opened up in the east and west respectively.

Hoban was at the at the center of the plain and was surrounded by square-shaped outer walls.

Yesterday's rainfall had completely stopped and the afternoon sun was brilliantly shining down on the city, causing the stone wall give off a dazzling reflection.

Ponta sat on my head while the disguised Ariane and I walked the road between the rice fields towards Hoban. As the distance between us and the town gradually shorted, I started to notice a solemn atmosphere covered the area.

The city walls were around fifteen meters high and surrounded by a large moat. A gate tower was stationed on both sides of the moat and guards observed everyone that entered and left through the gate.

In front of the gate, a pair of guards were quickly inspecting people's luggage before anyone was allowed to cross over the moat's bridge. Thanks to the inspection, there was a large queue of people standing around with their luggage, waiting to enter the city.

The north gate wasn't that large, maybe two carriages could pass through it at a time. Since Hoban's main highway traveled east to west, perhaps those gates were larger than this one.

But the eastern and western gates must be crowded as well because the occasional cart would make their way over from one of those directions.

Just before we reached the gate, a guard jumped onto a cart and tore off a person's cloak to get a good look at their face. The situation was so dire that even adventures had to relent and be inspected one by one.

This inspection felt more like they were looking for someone rather than a simple baggage search.

In any case, it would be impossible for us to slip into the town under such a heavy inspection.

I looked back at Ariane and the gray cloak she was wearing to hide the fact that she was a dark elf and her eyes.

While the treaty with the Rhoden Kingdom was supposed to prohibit the capture and selling of elves, it did not mean that it was properly enforced.

From what I've learned, dark elves would go for a higher price than regular elves, and there would certainly be potential buyers everywhere.

And if the sale contracts were to be believed, then it would certainly be the case in Ferris De Hoban's territory. The feudal lord called Hoban, who was ignoring national law, would obviously try to buy an elf that had been exposed in his city.

There's also the fact that I'm nothing but a skeleton under this armor. I also cannot relent and remove my helmet for the guard's inspection.

"Seems like it is impossible for us to enter the city through the gate."

"Yeah."

From the depths of her gray cloak, Ariane's golden eyes focused on the on the city as she nodded.

Still, we couldn't simply leave without getting information on the elves that had been sold here, so we had no choice but to walk around the city and find a place to sneak in.

The road along this side of the moat had comparatively greater pedestrian traffic, and it seemed unlikely that we could transfer to the top of the outer wall from here. We might have to wait till dusk and used the cover of darkness to get in without the public's attention.

Together with Ariane and Ponta, we walked along Hoban's eastern wall in search for a place with fewer guards.

I noted that the town was considerably large as we walk along the path.

Before long we came upon the eastern gate, which was more than twice the size of the northern gate.

Needless to say that the bridge in front of the gate was overflowing with wagons and people.

Probably due to the number of guards carrying out the inspections, there seemed to be fewer guards standing watch atop the wall.

It would be easy to transfer over the gate now and enter the city, but there were too many people waiting for inspection who would spot us.

Leaving with Ariane, we sneak around to the southern side of the city.

The south gate wasn't that large and it seemed that it was only used by farmers to come and go to the nearby farmland.

The small amount of pedestrian traffic consisted only of exhausted, empty-eyed farmers.

As I walked along the path, all the haggard looking Hoban farmers that saw me looked upon me with fear or tried to avoid direct eye contact.

They showed no reaction when they saw Ariane, so maybe the helmet was the problem.

The luxurious armor was covered by my black cloak, but the helmet couldn't be completely concealed.

However, their avoidance of eye contact was rather convenient for our current situation.

"Ariane-dono, I can transfer inside from here. Grab on."

"Alright."

While confirming that there was no one watching, I knelt down and spoke with Ariane. She responded to me while placing her hand on my shoulder.

"【Dimensional Step】"

As the spell activated the scenery changed and now we stood on top of one of the city's wall, so I lowered my gaze to look around.

Since we can't stay on the wall forever I quickly looked for a suitable place inside Hoban to transfer to.

I found a location near some rundown houses around the south gate, no one too rich was probably living around there. Using 【Dimensional Step】once more, I transferred us behind one of the houses.

"We finally managed to enter Hoban……"

I mutter so as I looked back at the city wall from behind the house.

"First, we must find the man named Ferris De Hoban and his buyers."

Dressed in her gray cloak, Ariane stated our objective while observing our surroundings.

"Since his name is Hoban, he may be a part of the feudal lord's family…… for now, let us look for the feudal lord's castle."

If we simply asked about the illegal capture of elves in this city, I doubt that we would find any useful clues.

It'd be faster to just check out the feudal lord and his retinue

Since we were trying to find the lord's castle we naturally decided to head for the center of Hoban.

With that in mind, we set out to leave this rundown district. The streets were lined with wooden buildings in similar states of disrepair and there were very few signs of life.

When the people in the area saw us, they would get a stiff expression before running off. There were so few people around it almost felt like a ghost town.

For some unknown reason, everyone reacts the same way whenever they notice my knight's helmet. Where the knights of Hoban a bunch of rowdy people?

I thought about such things while we walked and after a while, we came to a place that was more lively. Merchant stands lined the streets, with hawkers and vendors loudly engaging in business. There seems to be a vigor to the city as the coming and going of carts and people created a lot of noise.

However, peoples with dangerous eyes are occasionally seen and guards were stationed everywhere, creating a rather unfriendly atmosphere.

The inspections at the gates and the weird atmosphere made me think that something must be happening in this city.

“This is a rather solemn atmosphere……”

“A large number of guards downtown would make it difficult to move about.”

Ariane keeps an eye on the crowd while we talked and walked through the streets. A few minutes later I was able to spot castle walls near the center of town.

That was probably the lord’s castle. The walls were almost as tall as the city’s and prevented us from seeing the castle itself. There was a moat dug in front of the walls, making it difficult to approach.

My gaze went to the bascule bridge and the excessive amount of guards that were intimidating the people in the area. There wasn’t a single person on the bridge, and the guards gave the impression that anyone carelessly approaching it would get a sound thrashing.

Entering from the front would be impossible, so I began looking for an infiltration point along the wall as we walked around the perimeter.

However, guards were placed at regular intervals along the moat and even on top of the wall.

The street next to the moat also had a lot of pedestrian traffic, making transferring to a remote location difficult.

We could try to transfer at night under the cover of darkness, but there wouldn’t be many transfer locations unless there was a lot of moonlight tonight.

On account of yesterday’s rain, I could only pray for that──

So I looked up at the sky.

The sun was blocked by some clouds, but there was still enough light to reflect off the moat’s water. Relieved that my fears were for naught, a sudden angry shout caught my attention.

Looking towards the direction of the shout, I saw a pair of guards hitting a small boy. There were many people watching, yet no one stepped up to put an end to the unpleasant sight.

“Watch where the hell you’re walking! You piece of shit!!”

“Dirty kids like you shouldn’t even be around here! You fucking eyesore!!”

The guards began to shout cruel insults while kicking the boy who cowered on the ground.

The boy had unkempt black hair and was wearing dirty rags. The kid was around 13 or 14 years old. Blood began to flow from the cuts caused by the kicks, yet the boy only glared back at the guards. His rebellious stare only seemed to anger the guards more.

“What’s with that look! You’re a rather impertinent brat despite being poor!”

I couldn’t bear watching this uncomfortable scene anymore

When one of the guards was about to kick the boy again I spoke out.

“How about you stop this here and now? The kid has already had enough.”

“Who the fuck said that?! Who dares to unnecessarily interfe──！？”

One of the guards turned towards the crowd to shout, but the last bit was cut off.

When the guards saw my black cloaked figure with bits of silver armor exposed as I partially unsheathed the holy thunder sword, they turned blue in the face.

Since I thought that she would detract from my dignified appearance, an unhappy Ponta had been left behind in Ariane’s bosom

“……It’s enough already, isn’t it?”

After I faced the guards and asked them the same question in a lower tone, the guards stiffly stood at attention and offered a salute while their heads were lowered at a 90° angle.

“Yes! I’m sorry for causing you trouble! We shall take our leave!”

The guards raised their heads before they hurriedly left the place where the boy was.

The effect of the armor was greater than I thought it’d be. After all, there was no way a mere knight or adventurer would be clad in such luxurious armor. It probably gave the impression of a high-class knight.

The armor seemed to affect the surrounding people as well, because they quickly went about their business and soon the surroundings started to clear out.

“If you’re hurt, I can heal you with my magic?”

The boy looked fearfully at my armor while I was asking this question, yet he somehow managed to get into a sitting position and glare at me as he answered.

“What do you want in return……”

Holding his stomach that the guards had repeatedly kicked, the boy tried to stand up but only managed to fall to his knees with a grimace.

“I am not the feudal lord’s underling. Since I can use healing magic, wouldn’t you like for your wounds to be gone in a blink of an eye?”

Covering my armor back up, I kneeled down and asked him again, which caused the boy’s expression to change.

“Healing……magic…… If you use that…… could injuries as bad as this be healed?”

“Yes, they can be healed.”

Even the dead could be revived when I use magic, so even the most severe injuries could be healed. Resurrecting too many people was taboo, but healing an injured child with my magic should be all right.

When I nodded at the boy’s question, I saw a shimmer of hope enter his eyes.

Does that mean nobody else would’ve been willing to treat him?

“I’ll sell you information…… for the healing magic. Will you cure my little sister too!?”

“Hmm, I wasn’t expecting anything in return in the first place, is that really necessary?”

“I will pay any price…… I’m not asking for a handout.”

Though he came off as a little stubborn, at his age it could be seen as pride.

To him, it was reasonable that he would offer something of equal value in order to fulfill his request.

“You said that you’ll sell information…… What kind of information do you have to offer?”

“……Side streets, secret paths……”

The boy’s lips unintentionally loosened as he started to list off what he could offer.

“Huh? …… You wouldn’t happen to know a secret way into the feudal lord’s castle, do you?”

When the boy heard the question, his eyes opened wide as he quickly glanced at the people left in the area. In a quiet voice, he then asked:

“……Why do you ask?”

The boy inquisitively stared at me for a moment.

After receiving such a treatment at the hands of the local lord’s guards, there was no chance he would leak our conversation to them

“I’m looking for a little something in the castle……”

I let my words trail off at the end as I didn’t want to clue the kid in on our true objective. Wrinkles form on the boy’s forehead as he thought it over, but he lifted his head once he found his answer.

“Alright…… I’ll tell you the secret path to the feudal lord’s castle. However, you have to treat my sister first.”

“I understand. I’ll take that information as payment for healing your little sister with my magic.”

As the pain finally began to lose its hold over the boy, he stood up with a grimacing face and started to walk down the streets with a slight limp in his step.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 13

V2 chapter 13

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Hoban Visit」Part 2

Ariane and I are currently following the boy through back alleys

We seemed to be heading in the direction of the southern gate, close to where we had transferred into Hoban.

As we leave the immaculate downtown area that surrounded the feudal lord's castle, the number of beautiful houses and people gradually reduced, giving way to an area with a deserted atmosphere.

The boy stopped once we reached the slums that lined the southern wall of the city.

The peculiar smell of decay and animals covered the land, a rather unsanitary smell, and Ariane had to grimace even in the depths of her cloak.

"Here."

However, seemingly accustomed to the smell, the boy just walked down the complex network of narrow alleyways before he entered one of the shacks

The roof was rather low so I had to bend down while entering, and the drafty shack was rather crowded with four people inside.

There was a single girl sleeping under a blanket of old rags inside the shack, and the boy quietly approached the girl before gently shaking her awake.

"……Onii-chan?"

There didn't seem to be more than a year's difference between the boy and the girl that called out to him.

She had black hair like the boy, but hers was rather long and unkempt.

"How'd you get those injuries? Did the guards do this to you?"

When the girl was fully awake, she slowly sat up and looked worriedly at her brother while tears started to gather in her eyes.

"This much is nothing. I brought a person that can heal your legs with me."

The boy wiped some blood from the corner of his mouth as he answered before turning his eyes in my direction as if prompting an introduction.

The girl followed the boys line of sight and finally noticed our presence. When she saw me, she became scared and hid in the boy's shadow

"No need to fear, I'm not one of the feudal lord's soldiers or knights. I'm Arc, just a simple traveler. The person behind me is my companion. Forgive our intrusion."

The girl silently opened her mouth as the cloaked Ariane offered a small nod with her eyes still covered, and Ponta began to briskly wag her tail while she was still held close to Ariane's chest.

The girl's expression slightly relaxed when she looked at Ponta.

"Mister Arc, please heal the legs of my sister Shea. I beg you."

The boy had an earnest expression as he lowered his head to the floor.

While giving a generous nod, I pulled back the blanket of rags from the girl called Shea to look at her legs.

The girl's thin legs were both set by pieces of boards tied together with strings.

"I asked an old man in the neighborhood to examine her legs, but he said that they couldn't be healed……"

The boy explained the origin of the boards while looking at his sister's legs.

The boards were acting as supports for her legs since both them had badly fractured bones. I don't know if she would be paralyzed or not even if she did heal on her own. The intermediate level recovery magic of the bishop class would be required.

When I gently moved her legs, Shea got teary-eyed and grimaced in pain.

The bones don't seem to have set yet.

"It's been nearly a month, but they show no signs of healing……"

I looked at the boy to see that he was making fists and was on the verge of tears.

It necessary to have proper nourishment in order for bone fractures to heal, and considering the state of this place it's unlikely that she's been receiving proper meals.

"You can trust me. 【Major Heal】."

I place my right hand over Shea's legs and cast the bishop class spell. The area overflows with an ambient light.

The brother merely watched the fantastic scenery in utter amazement

While Ariane only sighed and shrugged her shoulders as she watched from behind.

When I moved my hands, Shea looked down at her legs and touched them out of sheer amazement.

"Onii-chan, my legs don't hurt anymore……"

"Really!?"

While the boy let out a surprised cry, Shea joyfully removed the splints from her legs and trying to stand; however, she had no strength in her legs and immediately fall on her behind.

"The bones were just reconnected. Don't overdo it."

Since she hadn't moved them for nearly a month, she has lost a considerable amount of leg strength.

She wasn’t getting enough nourishment either, her whole body was as thin as deadwood. In this situation, even if the fracture is healed, the bone could break again at any moment.

“Kid, take this and buy your sister something nutritious to eat.”

I said that as I pulled out five gold coins from the leather pouch tied around my waist and held them out to the boy.

Although the boy was surprised for a moment, he refocused his thoughts and quickly looked away from the coins.

“I am Sil, not a beggar! Didn’t I say before that I’m not looking for any handouts?!”

“No Sil, you’re not a beggar. I do not dislike that pride of yours. However, you need to think about what’s most important to you before you answer. Instead of seeing this as a handout, accept this now and return the favor with interest. This is for your younger sister.”

I used that glib to justify our meddling, and overall it sounded very persuasive to me.

Sil thought about it for a moment before he spoke out in embarrassment.

“……Alright. However, please make it copper coins instead of gold ones! Because of my looks, I can’t go shopping with gold coins.”

Sil was certainly making a reasonable argument.

A kid with gold coins would be an easy mark in the slums, and I suspect that the stores would overcharge him as well.

No, the aggressive guards are likely to take them too.

“Oh, that’s right. Sil, you are rather reliable……”

A little ashamed of my thoughtlessness, I offered Sil some praise.

“……Isn’t this mister just too careless?”

Ignoring Ariane’s stifled laughter behind me, I took a leather pouch out of my luggage bag and handed it to Sil.

During the free time I had when I stayed in an inn, I sorted the gold, silver, and copper coins into their own separate pouches.

The pouches were packed to the brim with coins, and a 「Jingle Jingle」could be heard as the pouch falls into Sil’s small hands. He was obviously shocked at the weight.

“How many coins…… are in this……”

“It should be about 300 coins. I can add some silver ones if you like?”

When I offered to give him more, Sil looked at the pouch in his hands before he shook his head like a broken toy.

“Th-This is more than enough! Please wait here for a little while.”

Standing up as he said so, he lifted a floorboard in the corner and brushed away same dust, revealing a wooden box that had been buried in the ground.

Sil removed the cover to reveal ten copper coins, and he protectively placed the leather pouch inside the box before covering it back up.

Seems like he usually hides money and valuables in there.

When Sil was finished he bashfully lowered his eyes and smiled while giving me a small “Thank you, mister.”

No matter what world you’re in, seeing a child smile always left you with a good feeling.

“Shea, your brother is a good kid.”

While I chuckled and pat her brother’s head, Shea nodded with a full-faced grin as he was being praised.

Sil, the person in question. raised a protest as he tried to fix his disheveled hair.

“Arc you really are a kind person aren’t you……”

Looking back, I saw Ariane letting out a surprised statement as she tried not to laugh at the exchange that just took place.

“I suppose it’s time we received our promised reward.”

When I said so, I noticed that Sil’s face had become rather glum as he brooded over something.

I thought that the secret path that he spoke of was non-existent, but as I was about to suggest that, Sil stood up and went to the shack’s entrance.

“……I’ll lead you to the secret entrance. Come on……”

By the time we left the shack the sun was beginning to set.

Under these circumstances, Sil lead us through the back alleys of the slums till we came upon a stone bridge that stood over a shallow creek.

The width of the bridge couldn’t hold more than two carriages at a time and it would be rather difficult to cross since the moss covering it gave it an aged feeling.

“Here.”

However, the place that Sil pointed to wasn’t across the bridge, but one of the bridge’s support pillars that were right beneath it.

Directly beneath the section of the bridge that connected to the road, the muddy water began to flow into a tunnel. There was an iron fence in front of the tunnel, almost as if it were a large sewer.

Sil skillfully slipped through the iron bars and somehow moved the fence aside so that a normal sized adult could enter the tunnel.

This fence had probably been placed there in order prevent anyone from coming and going as they pleased.

However, even though two normal people could pass through the gate, the passage was too narrow for me and my armor because I got stuck and could not advance after the first step.

“Mister Arc, what are you going to do about that bulky armor?”

Sil twisted his head while asking his question in a surprised tone

Trying to accomplish something without transfer magic, I grabbed one of the bars and gave it a strong pull.

“Fuwn!”

I felt no resistance in particular as I put some power into my arms and ripped away a section of three bars.

Sil stood there, unable to believe what was happening right in front of him.

The two of us focused on Ariane as she moved inside the tunnel and proceeded to pick up a lamp that was placed along the wall.

Sil held it up carefully as if it would serve some type of purpose.

“Wait a second while I light it.”

When Sil took out a flint to light the lamp, Ariane held out her finger above the lamp and chanted a brief spell.

『ー Fire ー』

A small flame started to raise from her finger like a lighter, and she used it to light the oil in the lamp dish.

“Wow, so Onee-san is a magician too.”

Sil spoke in a slightly awed voice, as if he seemed amazed at the prospect.

Ariane waved it away as if it wasn’t anything special before asking Sil about the sewer while she looked around.

“How far away is the feudal lord’s castle from here?”

“Umm〜, we’ll have to walk for a bit. The smell in the depths is rather bad so you should prepare yourselves for it.”

Sil offered a warning as he took the lamp and ventured deeper into the tunnel. Honestly, I had the feeling that we exploring an underground labyrinth.

So that you didn’t have to walk through the raw sewage, a walkway had been created on both sides of the sewer which was large enough for one person to walk on at a time.

The walls of the sewer were lined with brick grooves and support beams that were installed at regular intervals; resulting in the tunnel having an atmosphere reminiscent of a coalmine.

As Sil guided us through the many twist and turns of the tunnel, the terrible smell kept assaulting my nose, even when Sil finally stopped.

There was not much difference between this place and the drainage ditch we walked through a while ago, except for a lack of roads. Sil slowly knocked on the brick wall until he heard something out of place and then proceeded to push that brick into the wall.

All of a sudden, a weird sound was heard and a section of the wall slide to the side,

revealing another dark room.

Thanks to Sil's lamp, I could see a long descending stairway that led into a damp passageway.

The passage the stairway led to was only wide enough for one person to pass at a time and the other end was connected to yet another stairway.

No one said a word while we descended the stairs of the hidden passage. The only sound in this wet passage was that of our constant footsteps; making the atmosphere all the more glum.

Before long, we reached the opposite stairs that led into a small room that had a few chairs and a table inside it.

Under the lamp's light, I could tell that this was some kind of secret bunker.

"The stairs in the back are connected to the feudal lord's castle……"

Sil awkwardly explained the stairs in the back before looking down.

Feeling a little doubt in Sil I climbed the back stairs to take a look at the panel.

There was a closed rectangular panel at the top of the stairs that probably acted as the entrance to the castle.

This was probably the hidden getaway passage for the lord to use in case of emergency.

As I inspected the panel, Sil came up to me and offered a deep bow.

"I'm sorry mister Arc! I didn't mean to deceive you, I was desperate to heal Shea's injuries! I did lead you to the lord's castle! In fact, I have an idea for how you can──"

"Oh! Apparently there's a storeroom on the other side of the panel."

While Sil kept talking about something or other, I lifted the ceiling panel and unintentionally shouted when I surveyed the surroundings.

The room I was peeking into seemed to be inside the castle walls. I could see the crimson glow of the setting sun leaking inside the room and there was a layer of dust covering everything.

"We should be able to enter the castle from here."

Looking back as I said that, I saw that Sil was opening his mouth like a goldfish and staring at me as if he couldn't believe something.

"Something wrong Sil?"

"Huh? Mister Arc!? That panel couldn't even be lifted by two brawny men! How?

Sil looked like a pigeon in front of a bird feeder, as his head looked from the panel to me and back.

"This much really isn't a problem for me."

"Wai-Wait a minute! Are you planning to enter the castle right now?"

Seems Sil finally managed to reboot his brain as he tried to confirm our actions.

When I heard his question I turned around and saw Ariane sitting in one of the small chairs inside the room. With a small nod, she stood up and signaled her consent.

“In order to find what we’re looking for, it’s necessary that we infiltrate the castle immediately.”

While holding Ponta to her chest in a resolute manner she stepped in front of the stairs leading to the storeroom.

“Wait wait! If you and mister Arc enter the castle now, it’ll cause an uproar!”

Sil throws his small body in front of the Ariane to prevent her from invading the castle.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 14

V2 Chapter 14

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Rebellion in Hoban」Part 1

“Even if you say it will cause a problem, we can’t fulfill our objective if we don’t enter the castle.”

Ariane spoke in a sullen tone to the small boy who was holding out his arms in front of her.

This boy had revealed the location of the secret passage into the castle to us, yet he was telling us not to use it.

Ariane was an elven warrior who had a mission to fulfill, yet she still seemed slightly irritated lately.

“Sil, if you have a reason we should not proceed then speak up.”

I closed the panel and sit on the stairs so we could listen to what he had to say.

Sil’s eyes restlessly dotted back and forth while he was lost in thought before he started talking again.

“Hoban is already suffering due to the heavy taxation…… The unreasonable tax even caused my mother and father to die of illness…… The citizens were planning to start a revolt…… however, right before the plan could be carried out, another feudal was assassinated. As a result, the guards in the town and castle have been heavily reinforced……”

When Ariane heard Sil’s words her eyes started to swim while I awkwardly looked down.

The increased number of guards and the strange inspections were all because of that Lord’s death due to Ariane’s actions. Hoban’s lord was probably scared of an elven surprise attack.

A feudal lord selling elven slaves had been killed, so those who bought said slaves would naturally act more cautiously.

“It took a large amount of money to reinforce the guards, which caused the taxes to be raised even higher…… The person who told me about this secret passage is part of the rebellion, but due to the increased amount of guards they had to change their plans for safety’s sake. The panel was something they believed to be impossible to lift with human strength……”

He kept looking at me as he talked as if he had something difficult to say.

Certainly, if the guards had been strengthened then our secret entrance could be blocked, but a rebellion might solve that problem.

Sil had said that the entrance shown to us as a reward was believed to be unusable and that

he thought I'd be upset that it wouldn't open. He even prepared to offer me a different reward instead.

In any case, had Diento's lord not been assassinated, then the rebellion would have gone on as planned, and there'd have been a chance that the elves would have been freed……

When I turned to Ariane, I saw that she was crouched down on the floor while still holding Ponta.

Since we were somewhat responsible for this, we couldn't say no to a way to fix both problems…… I think.

"Hmm, how about we sneak into the castle using the rebellion as a cover?"

While the rebels try to overthrow the feudal lord, we'll use this entrance to get inside the castle. With the rebellion underway, we could search for the elven slaves without much issue.

If we carry out our operation in the midst of the confusion there would be no need to fear pursuit either.

"I don't particularly mind…… when will the revolt start?"

Ariane's mood seemed to improve as she crossed her arms in tentative approval and asked for the date of the revolt.

It surely would be awkward if the new date of the revolt was set in January or the like.

"I can't tell you without speaking to Labatt first……"

Sil looked down with a sorrowful expression as he spoke.

It's something that couldn't be helped, I doubted that a kid like Sil could lay the groundwork for a rebellion of this scale.

Without the agreement of the person behind the rebellion, it would be impossible to coordinate the operation. The question is if that person would be willing to accept the proposal of two unknown people……

It's a pretty thin hope――

In my heart, I let out a sigh.

Following Sil's suggestion, we quietly let him lead us to the base of the person called Labatt.

We returned to the wall that connected the passage to the sewer and by the time we got back to the bridge the sun was almost completely gone

Sil guided us through the dark slums that only had a few lamps to act as small light sources.

Before long, we reached a building that was slightly less disheveled than the ones surrounding it.

Unlike the neighboring buildings, there was a stone wall surrounding the base. Sil walked up to the door and knocked on it in a coded rhythm before someone opened the door and

spoke to him in a low tone.

The person that opened the door looked at us with suspicion, yet he prompted us to enter with a jerk of his chin.

Ariane and I entered the building obediently.

Inside we were met with the glares of several solemn-faced men. In the back of the dimly lit room, there was a large dining room table, and a single man set there watching us.

The man was in his mid-thirties and had brown hair and a mustache. The wounds on his toned arms didn't give the impression that this man was a farmer.

There was also a porridge-like meal in front of the man.

"Sil, I've told you before that you have to send word ahead before you bring guests here……"

After the man glanced at me, he ate a spoonful of the porridge and looked back at Sil.

"Sorry, Mr. Labatt. I was in a hurry……In fact──"

Sil summed up everything while Labatt listened to to the whole story with his arms crossed.

"Oh, Arc was it? You must have extraordinary strength to be able to lift that heavy panel, and you used healing magic to fix bone fractures…… You plan to use the secret entrance while our plan is underway? However, how can I trust someone who doesn't even reveal his face?"

Labatt was evidently amused, because he smiled while asking the question.

I'm covered in full body armor and haven't even taken off my helmet, while Ariane was covered head to toe by her cloak that concealed her face. We were completely suspicious.

So it was no wonder that they would doubt us no matter what we said,

"We're not particularly looking for your trust. We don't mind if this talk is called off right now. We will simply use the passage to enter the castle on our own……"

"What was that!?"

At our one-sided declaration, one of the stern men became so angry that Labatt had to hold out his hand to stop him.

"You have business in the castle? Perhaps you are elves……?"

Behind me, Ariane reacted slightly after hearing his words..

The surrounding men did not know what was happening so they looked around at each other.

"What makes you think that?"

"A few days ago, the feudal lord of Diento was assassinated and rumor has it that elves were the culprits…… since then, the feudal lord here employed those idiotic guards and gave them a single order: 'Don't allow a single elf into the city' or something like that."

Seems that a few of the feudal lords had in fact become rather cautious.

Labatt gave his guess before he let out a slow breath.

“No, it would matter if I investigate your proposal and identity now…… There’s not much time left either…… we have no other choice.”

“Ho, there’s not enough time is there?”

Hearing my question, Labatt crossed his arms and wrinkled his brows before he closed it and continued speaking while pinching the bridge of his nose.

“The first and second princes will be visiting soon. If the king’s forces arrive while we’re in the middle of a revolt, we’ll immediately be sent to the guillotine. We have to act before the princes arrive……”

“Will the date of the visit not change even if you cause a revolt?”

“……No, We’ll deal with that matter somehow once the feudal lord has been dealt with. There are various circumstances surrounding the capital’s nobles……”

Labatt lips twisted into a sneer as he spoke, and he tries to smooth down his mustache.

I see, there was another person pulling the strings behind this revolt. We were caught in the middle of the power struggle between nobles. Although I don’t know their intentions, it is probably just one noble trying to absorb another’s land into their own territory, meaning that this person was probably employed to eliminate the obstructing noble.

When the current lord was killed, I could only hope that a slightly better one is installed, for Shea’s and Sil’s sake.

“Actually, I was supposed to be receiving a good amount of fighting strength from the capital…… but just the other day, they were hit pretty bad by a group of monsters. So I was in a tight spot when we realized that the secret entrance couldn’t be used……”

“That’s unfortunate. So when will you carry out your operation?”

“Tomorrow morning.”

“That’s sudden, but convenient for us.”

“The preparations are already done, all that’s left to do is to give the order. If I send the message to our friends now, the collaborators inside the castle will move as well. Sil, could you guide Arc to the secret entrance by the time operation starts?”

“Yes!”

When Labatt addressed him, Sil replied straight away.

Ariane, Ponta and I will just have to kill time for now.

When we returned downtown, the lights in the stores were still on. People were eating and drinking liquor and a few women outside the brothels propositioned me along the way

Hoban was brighter and more bustling than other cities I’ve been. It took advantage of it’s position as a stopover point for the trading route between the Rinburuto Archdukedom and Rhoden’s royal capital, and because of that the elf-made, magical crystal lamps were everywhere

There were lively shops everywhere and a few stalls had kebab-like meals set out on large leaves for sale. Before we headed back to the shack, we bought a few of them for Shea and Sil, together with a dish called chana which looked like salted and boiled chick peas that were tightly packed within some wrapping

“Hmm, which way to Sil’s home……”

On the way back from buying dinner, we lost our way looking around the labyrinthine slum.

“This way, Arc”

Ariane started to walk ahead of me with Ponta in her arms.

Elves have the ability to navigate the forest without getting lost, and apparently they could even find their way through a city.

I, who always got lost in Japan’s Umeda Dungeon[1], couldn’t help but be a little envious.

“This has gotten rather complicated…… is there a way for us to get into the castle without using the secret passage?”

While Ariane led the way, she asked that question.

“Ariane-dono, I think that you are partially responsible for their current situation.”

“Th-That’s! ……I’m already aware of that……”

She responded to my little tease a little frazzled.

“This time, the feudal lord will be dealt with by the rebellion, so our objective hasn’t changed.”

“Well……, as long as we can help my brethren imprisoned in the castle. This is a one-time thing.

I heard her determined words as we finally reached Sil’s shack.

When we entered, Sil and Shea were eating what appeared to be small dried beans.

Ariane encouraged the two to eat the meal we had bought for them a while ago.

Sil was reluctant at first, but when we said that it was necessary that his sister eat properly for her recovery, the two began to stuff their faces with great relish.

Meat and beans might not be the most nutritious meal, but it was be better than just the water and dry beans they had before.

“Why aren’t you eating Mr.Knight?”

Shea looked puzzled while she stuffed her mouth with food, her cute gesture was like that of a hamster.

“I had a treat at the shop some time ago. So you should eat without reserve.”

“Yes!”

I stroked Shea’s head as I told her that lie.

I had to avoid removing my helmet in public as much as possible, and while I was trusting

these kids, I couldn’t recklessly frighten them.

While Ariane bought a bit of the chana to her mouth, our eyes met for a brief moment but she said nothing.

Somehow she understood what I was doing.

However, without bothering to say anything, Ariane took a look around the neighborhood before using her earth and fire spirit magic to create a wall around the shack to keep the draft out from where the kids slept.

[1] It’s a large underground mall in Japan

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 15

V2 Chapter 15

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Rebellion in Hoban」Part 2

At dawn, I glanced at the sky that had yet to give way to daylight.

Hoban was silent while the tension in the air continued to rise and spread throughout the entire town.

The only sounds that could be heard were Ariane's, Sil's and my footsteps as we made our way to the stone bridge from yesterday.

When we arrived at the sewer entrance, there were two men standing around keeping watch.

Sil nodded at the two while he slipped between the bars and entered the sewers.

Ariane went in next, holding Ponta, and I followed behind her as she ran after Sil.

Ariane moved through the sewers without hesitation, whereas my directionally challenged self would wander around like a lost child in this underground labyrinth without a guide.

It wasn't a really serious problem thanks to 【Transfer Gate】 though.

Before long, we came upon the already opened wall entrance of the secret passage. A group of stern-looking men dressed like soldiers were hanging around it.

Since the passage was only as broad as a single person, they were probably on stand by until they could storm the castle.

We passed through the dank and dark passage and climbed up the stairs to the dimly lit small room. Beneath the lamp's light, a squad of men stood in the squalor.

Every one of them was wearing lightweight leather armor and they all had a tense expression while grasping their weapons tightly.

Labatt was sitting on the top of the stairs that lead to the castle, dressed in his personal set of body armor.

"Yo, you came. Quite a few of my former subordinates are also participating in the revolt. If you see a white cloth wrapped around a guard's right arm then they are our allies."

"Hoo, so you were once a guard……"

"Surprised that a former guard commander is taking part in this? It is now my plight to rebel against the feudal lord."

Labatt laughed as he twisted his mustache.

"What are the arrangements once we enter the castle?"

From the depths of her gray cloak, Ariane's golden eye's peeked out as she asked her

question.

“Once we break in we’ll split into two groups. This passage is connected to a warehouse located between the inner court and the main castle gate. The first group will gain control of the bridge and bring in support of the outside, while the second group will attack the guards stationed here so that the outside group has nothing to fear. Afterwards, our top priority is to gather everyone at the castle gate so that it can be destroyed.”

He said so as he took a sphere about the size of a fist from his breast pocket.

The black sphere seemed to be a combination of 2 half-spheres that were tied together with a string. It resembled a baking pan ball a little.

“An explosive magic crystal!”

Ariane opened her eyes in surprise when she saw the sphere.

“Onee-chan is a rather knowledgeable person. This fellow can easily blow the castle gate off of its hinges.”

“I heard that explosive magic crystals used magic stones as a detonating agent and that they were rather expensive……?”

“It a souvenir from our collaborator in the capital. That fellow blew dozens of gold coins on this.”

That explosive magic crystal seemed like a magic-powered hand grenade. The collaborator in the capital must be a high ranking noble with a lot of funds to send something like that over to these guys.

“I assume that we’ll be starting soon……”

As Labatt’s words trailed off, the tense men in the room naturally focused their attention on me.

Prompted by their stares, I climbed the stairs in the back of the room and placed my hand on the ceiling panel.

The tension in the room rose to a higher degree as people were swallowing their saliva and focusing their eyes on my hand.

When I pushed on the panel with a little strength, I heard the heavy rumble as it opened.

The tension that had filled the room till had now turned to shock as Labatt started to give his men instructions while laughing in utter amusement.

“Admirable, but we all have our own jobs to do. Two people lock the mechanism that the ceiling panel in place. Four people stand watch around this warehouse, Sil go down and call those waiting below.”

“Understood!”

Sil responded in high spirits before he ran out of the room to get the men waiting outside.

After listening to Labatt’s orders, the men in the room begin to calmly travel up into the castle one after another.

The panel above the secret passage was attached to a pulley connected to the warehouse's ceiling with a chain. Two men yanked at the chain to raise the panel before they secured it with a rope.

Once I was sure the panel was fixed in place, I slowly removed my hand and allowed the men to pour out of the passage one after another.

We appeared to be in a secret room within a warehouse, because when the room's door was opened we saw supplies blocking the way.

Four men opened a gap in the stack of supplies so that someone could peek inside the main area, while the members of the attack squads were readying their equipment.

When one of the four men at the door gave a hand signal, Labatt calmly nodded before giving the attack squad a signal of his own.

The men then slipped past the door into the main area before splitting into two teams.

Once outside, the groups meant to secure the castle gate and bridge headed towards their respective destinations by half-crouching along the wall. Once the castle group arrived, someone with a bow shot an arrow at a guard stationed on the castle wall.

The arrow caught the guard in the throat and caused him to fall.

A second arrow was fired and managed to hit its target, but before the number of guards could be reduced any further, the body fell off the wall and and landed with an audible crash that echoed through the area.

Someone on the wall noticed the sound and set out a group of yawning guards to the location with the now missing people.

Pretty soon the high-pitched metallic sound of a ringing bell was heard throughout the whole castle.

Khan, Khan, Khan, Khan.

Suddenly alarms started to sound all over the castle.

Under the dim light of the early morning, the sound of intense sword strikes gradually increased.

Shouts echoed as the guards and the group sent to attack the castle clashed with one another.

Behind a guard that had been overwhelming one of the rebels, another guard came rushing in to join the fight. However, the guard had a white cloth tied to his right arm and wound up stabbing the first guard from behind.

Ariane and I were slowing walking around the chaos-filled inner court, looking for places where the captured elves might be held captive.

However, I wasn't exactly inconspicuous walking around in a black cloak, so every once in awhile a guard trying to raise morale would come charging at me. Each time, I would lightly knock them on their heads, causing their eye to go white as they collapsed.

『─Explode. Slay thine enemies─』

In front of the castle gate, a group of men were trying to defend it, as a chant was spoken and the black sphere was thrown towards the gate.

When the roaring explosion and burst of flames went off near the gate, the guards in the vicinity were blown away.

Once the smoke cleared the gate wobbled a little but remained standing. While the gate's lower hinges were destroyed, the top ones remained unharmed.

"Fuck! There was enough power, but the timing was off!"

Labatt curses as he bitterly looked up at the gate.

It would take something like hand grenades to target and destroy the top hinges.

"Push it!! The gate has been weakened! Push it!!"

When Labatt barked his order, his surrounding men finished up the remaining guards before gathering in an attempt to break the gate down.

"Defend the gate to the death!! The others will rain down arrows from atop the wall!!"

From the other side of the gate, someone who was probably a guard captain commanded his troops to fight against the rebels.

Furthermore, soldiers soon arrived on the rampart and started to fire arrows on the rebels below. However, for every rebel shoot down another stood ready to take their place.

This situation left both parties in a deadlock at the castle gate.

We couldn't afford to wait forever for this pushing match to come to a close.

"Gangwayyyyyyy!!!"

When I shouted while running into the center of the gate, the people quickly parted ways.

My shoulder turned a pale blue when I ran at full speed and activated the warrior skill【Shoulder Smash】. A large hole appeared in the gate and the guards that had been pushing against the other side of the gate were blown away like leaves in the autumn breeze.

For a moment the area went quiet and only the sound of the fight outside the castle gate could be heard.

"The gate is opened!! Charrrrgggge!!"

Once the moment of silence passed, Labatt gave a rallying cry at the top of his lungs before running at the remains of the gate.

People got their bearings as their morale was raised and they soon followed after Labatt and begin to stab at the guards that were left in a state of shock.

When the surroundings became a crucible of confusion, I heard a joyous cheer from behind.

The drawbridge at the front gate had probably been lowered.

Soon a rumble could be felt and a battle cry could be heard approaching, causing the morale of those who had already broke into the castle to raise even further.

The guards that initially tried to fight soon scattered.

It would've been nice if they had been more tenaciousness in this battle, like in an RPG where a hidden boss would be brought out, but that was unlikely.

Occasionally, a few magicians would try to cast spells in our direction, however, they were easily dealt with by a clothesline to the throat.

Now we just have to search the castle for our objective.

"Ariane-dono, we should begin or search of the castle."

"Yes"

After speaking up, Ariane moved out from behind me and the two of us quickly headed towards the castle.

Both of the castle doors were already ripped from their hinges, and the looting had already begun.

"These people raised a revolt to put down a tyrant correct?"

Ariane raised an eyebrow as she looked at the current state of affairs.

It was a familiar scene within human history, not everyone that takes part in a revolt was the noble sort.

I couldn't say anything against them because I did something similar in Diento not too long ago.

When I saw a man chasing after a female servant with a sword, I swept his legs out from under him as he passed by.

First of all, we should check the underground dungeon.

We immediately found the stairs to the dungeon and descended into the darkness.

The guards had already run away. The cells of the prison were lined up next to each other, and while we did see an old man and a bearded man of unknown ages, there were no signs of the all important elves.

As we continued to thoroughly search the castle, we finally found what we were searching for in a corner room on the third floor.

In the center of the stylish room was a roughly made cage that clashed with the interior and inside the cage, a sole female elf was calmly sitting in a chair.

She had the green-tinged blond hair and long ears of the elves and she wore a black collar around her neck, as well as a thin silk dress. While she was looking ahead, her green eyes weren't focused on us.

"Aniki, is that a real elf!? This is the first time I've seen one!"

"Hah hoh, quickly search for the key! Hurry before someone else takes her!!"

The two men that came here before us started to search the room for a key so that they could take the women home as a war trophy.

“Unfortunately, she is one of the people we’re looking for, so please leave.”

I called out the duo from behind.

“Huh!? That’s unfair, you’re trying to swipe our trophy away from us!!”

The well-built man referred to as Aniki had an awkward expression as he shouted that the woman was their prize.

Based on the way he looked it was clear that he saw how I blew the gate away, and that he was terrified of me.

When I simply took a step forward, the man reflexively drew his sword and took a fighting stance.

He seemed to want a physical altercation, so I took another step forward and delivered a backhand to the man’s temple.

The man instantly lost consciousness and fell to the floor.

“Bastard! Aren’t we allies! What’d you do that for!!”

Unlike the other one, this man wasn’t afraid, and he attacked with open hostility. So, I punched him in the face hard enough to knock a few teeth out and throw him into the back wall.

“Even though we worked together, I don’t remember becoming allies.”

Since I held back he shouldn’t die from that.

While I had been playing with the two, Ariane had pulled down her cloak’s hood and approached the cage.

“We’ve come to rescue you.”

The women rose from her chair in surprise when she shows Ariane was a dark elf.

“I never thought help would ever arrive…… I suppose you had something to do with the noise outside?”

“There was a revolt against the feudal lord. Now let’s get you out of here before it’s too late. Do you know where the key is?”

“The feudal lord that bought me always carried it.”

The women answered Ariane’s question in frustration.

“Ariane-dono”

It’d be a waste of time to search for a key in the middle of this revolt, and besides, the lord might not even have it anymore.

Probably realizing my intention, Ariane stepped away from the cage.

“I’ll have you out in a little bit.”

Saying only that, I grab onto the cages bars and started to pull at them.

I heard the sound of metal creaking as the iron bars gradually bent.

〈Funnu!〉

I only wanted to create a gap in the bars; however, with a loud snapping sound the bars broke off and I was left holding two broken bars in my hand.

The cage wasn’t able to withstand being deformed. I don’t know if it was cheaply made, or if this world’s iron manufacturing techniques were simply too low.

The woman in the cage stared at me in shock and said nothing while I destroyed two more bars.

When the cage was completely ruined the woman was able to leave it easily.

While I was removed the collar from her neck, a loud shout was heard from outside the room.

“I’ve killed Earl Ferris De Hoban!!!”

Things seem to be wrapping up somehow how or other.

Since we no longer had any reason to stay, Ariane and I nodded at each other before I activated 【Transfer Gate】 to transfer us to Raratoia, leaving Hoban behind.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 16

V2 Chapter 16

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「The Capital City Olav」Part 1

The next day, Ariane and I transferred to a location overlooking Hoban's city gates with 【Transfer Gate】. We didn't stay for long since I instantly started to use 【Dimensional Step】repeatedly to travel in the direction of Rhoden's capital.

The elf we saved yesterday was staying at Dylan's home in Raratoia and was set to leave the village tomorrow morning.

Last night I thoroughly enjoyed the delicious meal and bath at Ariane's home. When I get a house, I'm going to make sure that I'll have a bath for my exclusive use.

The thousand gold coins in my luggage bag were also the reason my desire to get a home of my own was growing.

Ariane's mother Glenys said I could come and go as I pleased, but something was preventing me from accepting that invitation.

The reason for that was the condition attached to that offer, which was that Ponta had to accompany me.

I could only tip my hat to Ponta for her ability ensnare the hearts of women and children.

Ponta was at her usual spot atop my helmet, and she would occasionally yawn at as she gazed at the scenery in-between the transfers.

It would normally take two days of traveling via carriage to reach the capital from Hoban, but the three of us didn't even need half a day thanks to the use of 【Dimensional Step】.

Besides, the only scenery around here was that of a calming plain and occasional villages and their fields. With 【Dimensional Step】, any large distance can be easily traversed.

Since the highway leading into the capital had a lot of pedestrian traffic, I transferred a little bit off to the side of the road so that we weren't seen.

Along the way, we came across a great river flowing south from the north.

Approaching the boundary of the river, I could see that the gentle current allowed the sunlight to be reflected off the water.

Soon we came across a large bridge built across the river, and visible beyond it was a large sprawling city.

Though it was difficult to describe the scenery that spread out in front of my eyes, the capital, separated into four layers by the walls that were built inside it, seemed to be the epitome of the architecture prevalent in human territories.

"This is a masterpiece……"

When I had that slip of the tongue while glancing at the city, Ariane tilted her head in confusion.

“What was that?”

“Hmm, it’s nothing.”

I shook my head while answering Ariane’s question before I once again stared ahead.

We made our way onto the highway and blended into the crowd heading towards the city.

The main reason we were heading towards Olav was to gather information for future operations.

We still had a few names on the sale contracts that we needed to look into: Londes De Lanbaltic and Drusus De Barishimon.

Since Hoban will be rather chaotic after the rebellion, we decided to go to the capital in order to look for information about the remaining two names.

In the distance, I could see the outlines of multiple people and carriages crossing the large bridge built over the Rydell River in front of the capital.

On the other side of the bridge, the road leading into the city was similar to the one in Diento. However, unlike Diento, the city’s urban district stretched into the third and fourth sections.

After crossing the bridge straddling the Rydell River, the city walls of the royal capital became visible.

The walls were over 30 meters high and the lack of trees, like those that surrounded Raratoia, only made them appear even taller.

We were approaching the 10-meter tall eastern gate now and one could tell how prosperous city was by simply looking at the vast amount of carriages and people that passed through it.

Ariane and I join the line for pedestrians that was beside the one for carriages and waited while watching the waves of people who entered the gate.

It wasn’t long before we found ourselves in front of the guards.

The guard didn’t give me more than an empty, fleeting look before he started to automatically recite a phrase he must’ve said an uncountable number of times today.

“Identification or 1 sek entrance fee.”

The guard spoke in the business-like tone and silently gestured for us to pass through the gate after I handed him 2 silver coins before he moved on to the next person in line.

I looked up at the large opened gate as we entered the Rhoden Kingdom’s capital for the first time.

The street beyond the gate was the same width as the gate and paved with stone. Shops lined both sides of the street and the large amount of people passing by gave the impression of being in a huge mall.

The people wore a variety of different clothes and all the hustle and bustle gave the capital a real sense of vigor.

Ponta's restless movements were transferred from the top of my head as she looked at the scenery.

However, the capital was starting to show signs of the problems with having such a high population density. As the saying goes, "Fires and fights bloom in Edo.", and that became all the more obvious as we approached the crowded marketplace.

We came upon a group of muscular men fighting against one person, and by all odds the single man should've been at the disadvantage.

Yet that wasn't the case as the outnumbered man was well over two meters tall, wearing a turban-like hat on his head and a piece of cloth over his mouth. His upper body was bare, except for a mantle, revealing muscle that seemed as strong as tempered steel.

Despite the large crowd, the man's presence could be felt all the way over here and for a moment I even thought I saw the Conqueror of Century's End[1].

"You bastard! What's a Shima like you doing in Dica territory!!"

The poor hoodlums were putting on a show of false bravado in front of the turban wearing conqueror. It appeared that the territorial distribution agreement between the locale gangs had been broken.

However, the conquer either didn't remember the agreement or didn't see the men as much of a threat, as he only glanced down at the men once before trying to move on.

"Bastard don't just ignore us!!"

Suddenly the situation reached a boiling point as the hoodlums surrounding the turban-wearing conquer drew their daggers.

The spectators seeing the bloodshed that was about to happen started to scream as they backed away.

However, what followed were the screams of the men that had been shouting at the conqueror. The man with the turban had managed to approach two of the hoodlums and lifted them with a vice-like grip by their heads.

"Gyaaaaaaaaa!! My head! My Heeead!!"

"Make it stop!! Make it stop!!!

The two men struggled to break free as they cried out in pain as the turban-wearing conqueror mercilessly tightened his hold on their skulls, till the point where sounds of something cracking could be heard.

This display of an overwhelming difference in strength caused the surrounding bystanders to go motionless as they wondered if the men's skulls would be crushed.

"You crazy bastards!! What do you think you're doing!!"

Hearing the all the commotion, guards started to approach the area while pushing their way through the crowd. Upon seeing the guards, the spectators began to scatter in every

direction.

When I looked back I saw that the Conqueror of Century's End had disappeared as well, leaving behind nothing but two unconscious men with stained crotches.

"Such a barbaric place……"

While frowning at the smell of the urine, Arian let out a sigh from beneath her cloak.

"It's convenient for use that this place is slightly barbaric, full of so many people, and easy to get lost in."

Ariane and I were having this exchange while we were walking away from the scene of the incident.

"First, let's find an inn to stay in, then we'll split up to search for some information……"

"Alright……"

I agreed with the seemingly tired Ariane as we made our way through the city while discussing our future plans.

After walking the streets for a while, I tapped one passerby on his arm and ask for directions.

"Excuses me, I'm looking for an inn. You wouldn't happen to know anywhere good?"

"Huh? O-Oh…… well shouldn't a knight such as yourself be able to stay in the second district?"

The young man's eye bulged when a strange knight started speaking to him, but he managed to give me a proper response.

According to the youth, we were now in the fourth district and the higher status and the more wealth you possessed allowed you to move closer to the center of the city.

Only nobles were allowed to stay in the first district and it was a rarity for a commoner to pass through those gates.

After thanking the youth with a silver coin, Ariane and I continued down the main street.

The main street stretched from the east gate all the way to the second gate, and soon we found our way to the third district's gate.

The gate was around twenty meters tall and even the walls to the left and right of it were rather nice. There was a variety of stalls along the wall in a similar fashion to shops set up under the underpass downtown.

The security on both sides of the gate wasn't all that impressive, only having a guard station on each side. When we crossed the gate, the miscellaneous sounds of people moving about calmed down, but the number people remained unchanged for the most part.

However, unlike the wooden buildings that filled the fourth district, the buildings in the third district were made of stone and in a arranged in a somewhat elegant manner.

Since we would be more noticeable in the more upscale districts, we decided to look for an inn here.

Turning off the main road and walking down the shop-lined streets, we eventually came upon a large flowing waterway. The gondolas that were carrying people and luggage back and forth along the waterway gave off the impression of being in Venice.

There was a stone bridge that the gondolas would sail under, and it lead to a residential area.

The street wasn't as crowded as the main street and along with the shops there were restaurants and inns lining the streets.

We entered one of the three-story inns and booked separate rooms for Ariane and myself.

Since tonight's lodgings had been taken care of, Ariane and I split up after leaving the inn and began to gather information in the city.

Because the city was larger than a normal town, I decided to walk the main street so that I wouldn't get lost.

Besides, I wasn't sure I could get much information in the back alleys──, I walk the streets with that excuse in mind.

I never thought that I would have so much of a problem with information collecting.

Since Ferris De Hoban a noble with a city named after his family, it was likely that the remaining two people were lords with their own cities named after them.

If that's the case, then I simply had to search for cities with the names of Barishimon and Lanbaltic.

The easiest way to find this information would be to speak some merchants, as it's a requirement of their trade to be knowledgeable on that sort of things.

With that in mind, I retrace the path leading to the inn since it was a good place to start

I turned the last corner and came upon the row of stalls that lined the third district wall.

A lot of the stalls had been offering a variety of different fruits and vegetables, causing Ponta to wag her tail rapidly on top of my head.

"Kyun!"

Ponta started to fidget even more when we walked by a certain stall.

An old man was selling some dried berries by weight at the stall. The bitter-sweet smell coming from the barrel full of berries seemed to have greatly stimulated Ponta's nose.

"Old man, two cups of berries, please. Put them in there……"

I reached inside by luggage bag and handed the old man a small leather pouch.

"Yes. Anytime, Knight-sama."

Although rather slowly, the old man scooped the dried berries into the pouch I handed him.

"Oh yeah, Old man. I have a question. Do you know where the Lanbaltic or Barishimon territories are in relation to this city."

When I asked the old man that question he tilted his head a little before nodding his head

like he remembered something.

“Oh, I know where Lanbaltic is. You take the highway out of the west gate to reach the port city of Lanbaltic.”

“Hoo? To the west. How far away is it?”

The old man folds his arms and furrowed his brow as he looked up at the sky.

“Hmm〜 it’d be about six days by carriage……”

That’s quite the distance if it takes six days by carriage……

“Have you heard anything about Barishimon?”

“Sorry, I haven’t heard anything about that〜”

The old man looked at the sky for a while before shaking his head no.

“That so. Don’t worry about it old timer. This is for your troubles.”

I gave the old man five silver coins for the bag of dried berries and information.

The old man’s eyes bulged when he saw the coins but he immediately gave me a toothy grin.

As I left the stall, I started to feed Ponta the dried berries. I went to the other stalls to try to collect some information on Barishimon, but no one seemed to have heard of the name.

I succeeded in finding out some more information about Lanbaltic, but I couldn’t find anything on Barishimon. When I was starting to think that we had the wrong name, someone called out to me from behind.

“It’s been awhile.”

When I looked back, I saw someone I had met somewhere before.

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V2 Chapter 17

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「The Capital City Olav」Part 2

There was a large hat on her head and her eyes were staring directly at me. She had short, raven black hair and was wearing black clothes that seemed easy to move in.

Although she was only around 150 cm tall, the gauntlets on her arm, her leg guards and the dagger at her waist didn't give the impression of a city girl.

The girl's eyes were drawn to Ponta for a moment before looking back at me.

I remember those emotionless blue eyes from somewhere.

"Hmm…… I know you from somewhere but……"

"……Things seemed to have gone well in Diento.

The girl maintained eye contact as she spoke in a monotonous voice. The figure of a cat-eared ninja in the kidnapper's base flashed in my mind.

"Oh, the ninja girl from the other day."

Her eyebrows twitched in response to my unintentional utterance.

"Ninja…… so I didn't mishear you last time."

She raised her neck up as far as she could to look up at me as she quietly muttered to herself.

"I'd like to talk to you…… do you mind sparing some time for me?

When I nodded at her question, she looked at me with a serious expression before silently urging me into a less crowded alley, leaving me to obediently follow her.

She observed the surroundings and began to speak after calming down a little.

"Forgive me for the late introduction. My name is Chiome. I am a member of the Blade Heart Clan, one of the six shinobi clans."

Though she gave a Japanese-style name──

"The Jin Shin clan?"

I unintentionally spoke the name I was unfamiliar with.

"'Jin' as in 'Blade' and 'Shin' stands for 'heart', and together they mean 'Those who endure'."[1]

I couldn't help but notice that the characters in the clan name formed the kanji for 'Shinobi'.[2]

While I was in the middle of that realization, Chiome's clear blue eyes stared back at me

apparently prompting an introduction of my own.

In response to her prompting, I give her my name.

“I am the traveler Arc. For my own reasons I’m simply wandering around.”

“Is that so…… Well then Arc-dono, why did you call me a ninja?

I stared back at Chiome with sweaty palms as I try to come up with a suitable answer to her question.

She seemed to know the about the existence of ninjas but the word seemed to carry a different meaning for her.

“Hmm, in my home country we call those that dress like you were and conduct covert operations ‘Ninjas’.”

I watched her reaction to my answer.

Chiome closed her eyes and nodded in understanding at my answer.

“So that’s it…… The name “Ninja” has secretly been passed down through our clan for generations. For Arc-dono to know of it means that you must come from the same country as the first clan head.”

Apparently, only the Blade Heart Clan know of the word ‘Ninja’. Since the records were only kept by one clan, then there is no doubt that the man who taught it to them had come from the same world as I……

The clan head she spoke of either had to been Japanese like me, or someone from earth that knew about ninjas.

Though she had called him the first generation clan head──

“Could you perhaps…… tell me what the current generation is?”

“……Counting from the first generation the clan is now in the 22nd generation.

I hung my head at Chiome’s answer.

Though I was expecting some time to have passed, there is no way that the first clan head would be still alive after twenty-one generations.

Even with that in mind, I asked her anyway.

“I take it that the clan founder is no longer alive?”

“Correct. The first head appeared 600 years ago and led the persecuted cat people into forming a new clan. That clan would later become know as the Blade Heart Clan.”

“Hmm, so was it that you wanted to talk about?”

According to Dylan, the members of the beastman race were lopsidedly hunted to be turned into slaves.

It was risky for her to be talking in the middle of a human city, especially since she was talking about her clan’s history in the country’s capital.

“There is a job that will require Arc-dono’s assistance.”

While I was questioning her actions, Chiome gave a bold response to my question.

Thinking about her actions in Diento and the current situation, it was easy to see that the circumstances for her being in this city and that the job she mentioned would involve a risky infiltration.

“Chiome-dono, are you asking a human to help you with this ‘Job’?”

She simply offered me a silent nod and stared at me with her deep blue eyes.

She probably wants help to rescue her countryman── that is, freeing the enslaved People of the Plains and Mountains.

However, since humans were the ones enslaving them in the first place, I had to wonder why she would ask one for help.

She clearly had her own agenda, and since I was offering my support to Ariane and the elves I couldn’t answer carelessly.

“At the moment I’m cooperating with the elves. It would go against my convictions to work with others behind their backs.

She made a thoughtful gesture before she started to speak again.

“I would like to speak with the elves you a currently working with. Arc-dono, if you offer your support for this task I’ll offer you the information you seek as a reward.”

Although there were only a few intonations in her voice, her words carried a slight hint of challenge in them.

“I-Information……?”

“You’re looking for information on the names that were written on the sale contracts…… correct?”

We stared into each other’s eyes.

“How could you guess that…… you should know that two of the three people have already been found.”

“Is that so…… then the only one left should be Drusus De Barishimon.”

I could say nothing in response as the corners of her mouth raised ever so slightly.

More than simply knowing the contents of the contract, she even knows about the people mentioned and was able to deduce the one I couldn’t find anything on.

“……I’m to believe that you know the whereabouts and identity of that person──”

“Yes. I know of those things.”

As you’d expect from a ninja.

While we certainly needed that information, acquiring it would mean helping with the emancipation of the slaves.

I have no qualms cooperating with her, but there’s the risk of me standing out too much during this operation.

If my actions up till now become public, I would become a wanted man and traveling would be difficult.

However, when I said that two people from the contracts had been found she brought up Barishimon without any hesitation.

She must have done so because she believes that he'd be the most difficult person to find.

Even if I was able to find information on Barishimon through my random search of the city, the news of my efforts could reach the person in question and drive him deeper into hiding.

Dylan said that this girl and her like were descendants of spies. This meant that their information were better than what was available to us.

For the time being, I should go back and discuss this with Ariane……

"I need to consult with my partner before I can give you an answer."

"Please allow me to accompany you then, Arc-dono. I'd like to speak with your cooperator directly."

I thought I saw a little childishness in her blue eyes as I thought it over.

There shouldn't be any problems with introducing this ninja to Ariane――― I hope.

Even though I still had my doubts, we should be able to deal with any problem that come up.

"I understand. Well then, follow me Chiome-domo."

Chiome and I returned to the main street and we moved away from the third gate's wall at a quick pace. Despite her small stature, she was able to keep up with me.

Ponta must have been tired after my talk with Chiome because she dozed off atop my head. On the way back to the inn, I occasionally had to keep her in place since she would start to slip off from time to time.

When we returned I invited Chiome to my room on the third floor.

She sat down in the only chair in the room, while I sat on the bed.

Ponta seemed fully awake now as she checked the softness on the bed with her front paws.

A strange silence soon blanketed the room.

The ninja Chiome was restlessly staring at Ponta for some reason.

"Chiome-dono, the toilet is on the first floor."

"That's not the problem!"

Though I only meant to break the ice, she became a little red when she voiced her denial.

Even if it was only for an instant, she looked like a young girl.

I took a small leather pouch from my bag and handed it to her.

Chiome might as well have a question mark above her head, given how easy it was to see her confusion. She didn't know what to do until she opened the pouch and saw Ponta's

reaction.

When she resumed her restless gazing, I took the chance to give an introduction.

“Although it’s a little late, this little fluffy fox here is Ponta. Those berries you’re holding happen to be her favorites.”

When Chiome heard me say that, she intensely gazed at Ponta as she slowly began to inch a hand full of the dried berries towards Ponta with her mouth agape.

Ponta stood up when she saw the dried berries coming toward her.

Chiome didn’t seem familiar with sitting in a chair, but she eventually managed to lean forward a bit.

As Chiome’s timidly brought her hand of berries closer, Ponta started to wag her tail in excitement.

When Ponta started to nibble at the berries with great relish, Chiome narrowed her eyes and smiled faintly.

“I’m amazed that Arc-dono managed to tame a spirit beast……”

Chiome stroked Ponta’s fur while muttering that.

“This fellow acts like that with everyone……”

I tried to answer with a bitter laugh, but Chiome shook her head.

“No, spirit beasts can detect malice within people. The reason I can feel at ease being in the middle of a human city with you is because of the absolute trust this beast has in you Arc-dono.”

At her words, I looked back at Ponta――― only to find her begging for more berries.

If she was to be believed, then my trustworthiness was completely dependent on Ponta.

Deciding not to dwell on that for too long, I asked her another question I had.

“I take it that she’s the reason you helped me save the elves when we first met?”

When we first met, she had figured out that I wasn’t one of the kidnappers almost instantly.

It wouldn’t have been strange if she just assumed that I was a normal knight collaborating with the kidnappers.

Chiome looked me straight in the eyes when she hears my question.

“My people, the elves, and even the humans each have our own respective scents. I smelled a thin trace of the elves from you when we met. But――”

She hesitated for a second as she thought her choice of words over before speaking again.

“Arc-dono, there’s a unique scent coming from you. It’s a scent that I’ve never come across before.……”

Chiome’s eyes narrowed as she looked at me, as if she were trying to see beyond my helmet’s visor.

The fact that I’m nothing but a skeleton may be the source of my peculiar scent.

Something in her eyes seemed to suggest that she had obtained what she was after, but that just could have been my imagination――

After that, we sat in silence until we heard a knock on the door.

[1] You have to see the kana that make up the sentence so here 「ジンは刃、シンは心を表す言葉で”耐え忍ぶ者”という意味です」
[2]忍 this is the kanji for Shinobi This are from the clan name 刃, 心.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 18

V2 Chapter 18

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Collaborative Scheming」Part 1

Few people would actually visit this room, so I opened the door and invited the person dressed in the familiar gray cloak in.

Even with the cloak, it was easy to identify the person in question thanks to her well endowed chest while she stared down at Chiome feeding Ponta the dried berries.

There was a brief moment of silence between the two before Ariane pulled down her hood and Chiome took off the hat she had been wearing.

Ariane had exposed her dark elven lilac skin and pointy ears, while Chiome had revealed the twitching black cat ears atop her head.

“Chiome-dono, allow me to introduce you to my elven partner Ariane-dono.”

Ariane offered a slight nod before narrowing her eyes and giving me a questioning gaze.

“Ariane-dono this is Chiome from the Blade Heart Clan and she is the informant from Diento that I mentioned before.

“A pleasure to meet you Ariane-dono. I am Chiome of the Blade Heart Clan.”

Chiome lowed Ponta to the floor before standing up and offering Ariane her right hand.

Meanwhile, her black cat ears continued to twitch.

Ariane took the extended hand and gave her own introduction.

“I’m Ariane Glenys Maple. Thank you for providing that information.”

“A warrior from Maple…… I hear that they are the elites of the Canada Forest.”

While shaking hands, Chiome’s blue eyes looked at Ariane in admiration.

The ninjas appear to have attained some information on the elves.

Ariane stared back at the petite ninja girl in surprise.

“Chiome-chan, why are you here? Is there something you’d like to discuss?”

As Ariane placed her hand on her hip, I couldn’t help but compare her well-endured figure to Chiome’s small stature.

Although Chiome looked rather young, her tone and behavior were that of an adult, yet she showed no signs of discomfort after being called “Chiome-chan”.

“Ariane-dono can we hear what you found out before explaining that?”

Although Ariane called for an explanation, the situation with Chiome may change depending on what Ariane found out.

Ariane seemed rather displeased as her brow started to furrow.

“It was no good…… Although I was wearing my cloak downtown, strange men incessantly approached me as I tried to gather information── I couldn’t find anything.”

She looked tired as she let out a loud sigh.

The shrug of her shoulders caused her large chest to instantly become more noticeable.

The conforming cloak over her chest probably attracted the attention of the men like moths to the flame.

When I walked together with Ariane my presence probably acted as an insect repellent since I can’t remember anything like that happenings before.

As I man I couldn’t understand her feelings, so I gave an ambiguous answer.

“I was able to find information on Lanbaltic. As for Barishimon……”

Chiome stepped in front of me and continued the explanation.

“I’ll take it from here……”

Chiome gave the indifferent-looking Ariane a brief summary of what we previously talked about.

Ariane simply closed her eyes and calmly listened.

“I don’t particularly mind.”

Once Chiome was finished, Ariane agreed to take part in the emancipation of the slaves, seemingly without giving it much thought.

Even Chioma was surprised by the quick agreement to the request.

Personally, I wouldn’t have been able to make such a decision without thinking it over a few times.

The People of the Mountains and Plains didn’t even have a treaty with the humans like the elves did, so it wasn’t illegal for human nations to use them as slaves.

Without human rights, they were treated as little more than animals. And it’s pretty much impossible for there to be animal protection laws in this world.

“This is no need to consider Arc separate in this matter. This is what I decided……”

While I had been lost in thought, Ariane spoke in that statement in a calm tone.

She brushed aside a lock of her silver hair and fluttered her long eyelashes as her golden eyes were fixated on me. Her expression was painfully sorrowful.

In response to that statement, Chiome’s ears subtly twitched.

“You should know that I intend to hunt down all those who enslaved my brethren……”

Ariane’s voice quietly resounded in the room, yet it was fraught with anger.

“We are not unwilling to help you. I ask that you just refrain from any overly conspicuous behavior.”

She herself was probably the reason for that last bit, since things would become difficult for the elves if her involvement in this affair became publicly known.

In fact, the high security we faced in Hoban might be even tighter in other territories after what recently had occurred there.

Ariane raised her eyebrow a bit as she thought about something.

“By the way, what kind of operation will we be taking part in any way?”

Groaning now won’t accomplish anything.

She agreed to work with Chiome and the Blade Heart Clan without considering the content of the mission.

Chiome and I looked back and forth between Ariane and each other before I let out a sigh.

“We plan to launch a raid against the largest slave dealer in the capital as a decoy, thus we need a group to act as the bait……”

The overall strategy was rather outstanding.

After all, the raid against the largest slave dealer was a decoy…… however I’m not ready to risk my life on this collaboration……

“Chiome-dono, why the decoy?”

I asked her for more details about the operation in a solemn tone.

Ariane must have been worried about it as well because she simply waited for a response.

“There is a reason for that. The Etsuato company is the largest slave dealership in the capital and has strong connections with the nobility. If the company is raided there’s no doubt that the guards would immediately respond. Worst case scenario, the King’s personal army may get involved.”

“How did you plan to escape with your enslaved brethren under these conditions?”

I nodded along with Ariane’s question.

“It is true that it’ll be difficult. To escape from the Etsuato company with my brethren is no easy feat, but the plan is for my comrades to simultaneously attack four other locations. During the ensuing chaos, we will make our escape.”

“Wouldn’t that mean that some of your brethren would become part of the decoy?”

All of a sudden Ariane’s words carried a shape edge to them

“It’s impossible to save them all. If you told me that I had to sacrifice ten people to save a hundred I’d do just that.”

What I saw in the depths of her blue eyes caused me to tumble a bit.

Even if she was a ninja, she appeared to be a thirteen or fourteen-year-old girl. Yet she thought nothing of carrying out an operation at the expense of her own people.

Even when she faced such a desperate situation, she fought against her circumstances without grieving.

I unintentional placed my hand on her head and began to pat her with enough force to cause her small body to hunch over.

Ponta also rubbed the scruff of her neck against Chiome's leg in an attempt to cheer her up.

A self-mocking smile slipped from Chiome.

You could say that I was stepping out of bounds── but seeing her smiling face was a sufficient enough reason to do it.

There was no way I could ridicule a group that took what little power they had and became criminals in every human country.

If things with the elves don't go well, then staying with the People of the Mountains and Plains might not be so bad. Besides, staying with a race of animal-eared people would be Shangri-la for members of a certain subculture.

While I was in the middle of contemplation, Ariane looked at me with a wistful glance.

I somehow know the meaning of that look.

I gave a small nod as I tried to burn the impression of this inn room into my memory.

"【Transfer Gate】!"

The pale magic formation appeared at the feet of the everyone currently in the room.

Chiome was surprised at the suddenly appearing magic formation, but in the next moment, our surroundings changed to that of a forest.

We were in the open field that had the large tree in the center of it.

The only thing out of place in this forest was the bed and chair that came along with us.

【Transfer Gate】 had brought along every piece of furniture that was within the formation.

Chiome restlessly looked around and her ear contently twitched about as if she trying to make sense of the situation.

Ariane probably didn't expect me to invoke the transfer so suddenly because she looked shocked for a moment before letting out a sigh.

Demonstrating 【Transfer Gate】 seemed to be the most effective way of getting her to incorporate it into the strategy.

"Chiome-domo, we're willing to use this power in the operation."

"Where…… Where in the world are we?"

Chiome's mouth was agape after she asked that question.

"We are currently at the base of the Annette mountain range."

I answered her question while looking around.

"The Annette Mountains…… I thought so. …… Arc-done is able to use spatial-temporal ninjutsu……"

She started to mutter to herself once I answered her.

“Spatial-temporal ninjutsu?”

“Yes, the first clan head was able to instantly cross long distances due to him mastering spatial-temporal ninjutsu. It appears that you too are capable of it Arc-dono.”

What I use was simple transfer magic, not ninjutsu……

I don’t think that the high-level ninja class had spatial-temporal ninjutsu, but I believe that people that came to this world like I did should have a similar transfer skill.

It’s possible that the first head simply called the skill spatial-temporal ninjutsu.

Was that first head guy a ninja otaku?

“Is Chiome your real name?”

I asked Chiome about something that had been on my mind.

“No, the name is one of the six titles handed down throughout the generations to the most skilled members of the clan.”

Chiome proudly puffed out her chest as she answered.

I was right when I thought that her name sounded like the famous kunoichi Mochizuki Chiyome from my former world. It wouldn’t surprise me if references to Sarutobi Sasuke and Kirigakure Saizo were among those six titles.

As I thought about such things, Ariane spoke up.

“Perhaps we should continue this conversation back at the inn?”

I can’t forget that monsters prowled this forest.

While everyone here seemed capable of dealing with the monsters in the area, this wasn’t a place where battle strategies could be calmly thought out.

Bringing the image of the room to the front of my mind I once again invoked the spell.

The magic formation appeared and in an instant everyone and the furniture was returned to the room.

Ponta even knocked on the floor with her forepaw to verify that we had returned.

Chiome looked around the room before nodding in confirmation of the magic’s effect.

“If Arc agrees helping you this time around, you’ll have access to the transfer mag──”

When I cut her off, Ariane gave me a look that said: “What?”.

I simply nudged my head in Chiome’s direction as a response.

After all, she had yet to divulge the date and time for the raid.

“That was magic that Arc-dono used…… If that could be used──”

I was about to turn away from Chiome, who was already in the middle of quietly muttering ways she can incorporate the transfer magic into the raid, when she suddenly raised her head and asked me a question about the magic.

“Arc-dono, what is the limit of the transfer magic that you just used?”

“I can transfer just about anywhere as long as I have the location memorized.”

Thanks to 【Transfer Gate】 I could instantly travel anywhere without worrying about the distance, as long as I could visualize the location that is.

For example, if I found myself in a city under siege, I could easily escape to a far off location using it.

Chiome began to ask questions about how many times the magic could be used and the maximum number of people that could be transferred at once. Since there was still things I didn’t know, I could only answer with my best guess.

In the game, even if I used 【Transfer Gate】 a hundred times in a row it wouldn’t cause any problems. And I wasn’t all that worried since 【Resurrection】had a higher mana consumption then 【Transfer Gate】so it should be fine.

When Chiome heard the general characteristics of the transfer magic her expression brighten up a little.

The three of us then revised the raid on the slave dealership. It was mostly the same, the only difference being that the released slaves wouldn’t be used as decoys.

“Arc-dono, I’ll inform my colleagues of the modifications to tonight’s operation. Please prepare for the raid until then.”

After saying that, Chiome opened the window and climbed to the roof before she started to run along the rooftops.

While watching her form shrink in the distance, want she said repeated in my mind over and over again.

“Ariane-dono…… did I hear that the raid would be tonight……?”

“I heard that too.”

Looking back out the window, I saw that Chiome had already disappeared.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 19

V2 Chapter 19

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Collaborative Scheming」Part 2

In Rhoden Kingdom's capital city Olav, inside the royal palace, a man with visible blue veins on his hands was throwing a silver cup on the floor of a private room that was illuminated by magic crystal lamps.

There was a dull metallic ping when the cup hit the floor before it slowly rolled into the corner. The mellow fragrance of the wine that had filled the cup spread throughout the room.

The eyes of two of the men in the room followed the cup as it rolled on the ground, before they glanced at each other and turned back to the man that throw it.

"Fuck! Why now! Why was Earl Hoban killed now of all times?!"

The man that had thrown the cup was sitting on a leather sofa and clenching his hands as hard as he could. His normally handsome features were twisted beyond belief and a cold anger filled his blue eyes. This person was none other than Douglass Shishle Carunon Rhoden Vetoran, the second prince of Rhoden.

"We're having difficulty contacting anyone in Hoban due to all the confusion the rebellion is causing."

One of the men looking at prince Douglass spoke to him in a serious tone.

The man's hair was a blend of gray and brown and he sported a respectable beard, but only a feeling of masculinity could be sensed from the man's muscular body

He was Marudoira De Olsterio, one of Rhoden's seven dukes and the Major General of the unified national army. He was the one that had read the report from his liaison in Hoban.

"If those Haunting Wolves hadn't appeared on the highway we could've stopped Sect's schemes!"

"Your highness, we could have prevented the rebellion had the monsters not forced us to delay our plans."

When Douglass began to berate the monsters, the man beside Marudoira stepped up to calm him down.

The man that spoke up wore a military uniform over his stout body, as he was Setorion De Olsterio, one of Rhoden's three generals.

Despite Setorion's efforts Prince Douglass continued his anger induced rant.

"That's too convenient! Now Sect will be able to take advantage of the situation and quell the rebellion."

The two generals blew out a sigh without looking at the enraged Prince Douglass.

Originally they were supposed to meet with Earl Hoban and conspire to assassinate Prince Sect. However, the highway that led to Hoban was threatened by monsters and Earl Hoban had been slain in the revolt.

“I can only say that all of this happened in an untimely matter. We need to focus on the next opportunity……”

Marudoira began speaking in a booming voice.

Members of the king’s personal army have already been sent out to deal with the monsters along the highway.

It would be difficult to leave the capital until things calmed down, making all their plans to visit Hoban for naught, and visiting somewhere else is impossible without preparation.

“Juliana also seems to have slipped off to Rinburuto undetected!”

As Douglass muttered that curse, someone started to heavily pound on the room’s door.

“Marudoira-sama! There is an urgent matter that requires your attention!”

General Setorion quickly responded by opening the door a little to receive the messenger’s report.

The soldier saluted General Setorion before whispering the content of the message in his ear.

Setorion nodded at the message and dismissed the soldier before whispering what he had heard into his father’s ear.

“What?”

Prince Douglass, who so far had been quiet throughout the exchange, asked Marudoira what was happening.

Marudoira reviewed what he had heard before he started speaking to Prince Douglass.

“Your highness, the main building of the Etsuato company is under attack. The assailants seem to be quite skilled and the company representative is requesting aid from the army…… How should we respond?”

Wrinkles formed on Prince Douglass’s forehead as he listened to the report.

“Why are problems like this popping up one after another?!”

Not only was Etsuato a major trading company, they were the ones used to evaluate the price of the elven slaves, so he couldn’t simply refuse their request for assistance.

As the room filled with prince Douglass’s curses, Setorion sighed before turning to the grim-faced Marudoira.

“Father and I shall deal with this. We’ll take some of your personal soldiers to help stomp out the criminals. The other side will be ever so grateful of the Major General for directly helping in this situation.”

“As you will.”

Seeing Douglass's twisted grin at the proposal, Setorion give a subtle smile of his own.

After Major General Marudoira received prince Douglass's command he quietly left the room.

When Setorion was about to leave he suddenly turned back to prince Douglass and started speaking.

"Your Highness. Concerning what happened in Hoban there was an unconfirmed report that elves were involved."

"What!?"

With that single sentence, Prince Douglass returned from thinking about his future plans to the present.

"The attack on the Etsuato trading company may be their doing."

"……What do you mean?"

The prince's voice was fraught with tension and worry as he questioned Setorion.

"To be honest, I received a report that the elves Diento had secretly been keeping disappeared after the assassination. Lord Hoban previously purchased an elf of his own. Although nothing has been confirmed, the same thing might have happened in Hoban……"

Setorion remained perfectly claim as he voiced his suspicions.

"Are you saying that the elves are pulling the strings behind the scenes? That's a terrible thought…… but I doubt they can get into the palace in the first place."

"However, things would be troubling if they have someone guiding them inside…… Diento was a fort in it's own right, but you've already seen the results. If we assume that the uproar in the town is a feint, then there is the possibility that someone people are being lead here to take your life."

"……What should we do?"

"It'd be best if you hide in an unknown location. We should head to your secret mansion in the first district. Your Highness."

Douglass hesitated for a moment before offering a small nod, Setorion proceeded to give an order to the messenger waiting outside the room.

"Prepare a carriage for his highness at the back entrance. Hurry."

When they received a quiet confirmation, Douglass and a small group of imperial guards made their way to the back entrance.

Since only members of the royal family and their close relatives knew of the passage, only the sound of the groups' footsteps could be heard in the nearly empty hall.

Despite sneaking around in the at night without a lamp, the group soon arrived at the back entrance where a small black carriage with the royal family's crest on it was prepared.

In front of the carriage were four guards on horseback.

Setorion opened the carriage door and allowed Douglass to enter before entering it himself.

Once the two were inside the sound of a whip was heard and the carriage was soon on it's way to the rear gate.

The soldiers stationed at the gate simply allowed the carriage to pass when they saw the crest that adorned it.

The black carriage raced across the stone pavement of the first district's residential area.

The atmosphere inside the carriage was rather heavy as only the jostling of the carriage and the hoof beats could be heard.

Suddenly the horses started neighing and the carriage came to a stop, causing Douglass to lost his balance and fall over.

"What was that?!"

Instead of a reply, the sounds of the guards charging at something and the start of an intense battle was heard outside.

"Setorion! What's happening?!"

Douglass peered out the window and looked out at the dark streets, but could only make out moving silhouette.

"Please calm down your highness. There is nothing to worry about.

Setorion unsheathed his decorative sword that hung at his waist and stabbed prince Douglass in the chest as he said that.

As he looked down at the silver sword inside his chest and back to Setorion, the prince's eyes were full of confusion.

"……Y-You……?"

His words were cut short as his head drooped and blood started to spill from his mouth.

As if waiting for that moment, the carriage door opened and one person entered.

Setorion quickly pulled his sword out of Douglass's chest and sheathed it before kneeling in front of the person that entered.

"Things seem to be going according to plan…… though there was some trouble."

The person who had entered was tall, had light brown hair and handsome features, and he was showing a thin smile as he expressed his thanks to the kneeling Setorion.

"Your praise is wasted on me."

Setorion looked up as the country's first prince, Sect Rondaro Carunon Rhoden, took a seat.

"Despite this being an improvised plan, it was wonderfully executed."

"No, I simply grasped the opportunity presented by the beastmen crawling into the city. If there's anyone deserving the praise, it's the Etsuato company that reported their troubles."

“Good work. Still, it is quite fortuitous that the spark we sowed in Hoban managed to reach even this place.”

Prince Sect handsome features were distorted as he laughed maniacally.

“Yes. The force sent to deal with Juliana should be returning soon. The dealings with the representative have also been complete.”

“I’ve been aware of the situation with Juliana for a while now. However, most of the group sent to deal with her was wiped out by a monster attack……”

The prince simply shrugged his shoulder as he said that.

“I understand that my trip to Hoban will be delayed due to the monsters but apart from that there’s no real damage……”

“Well, at least that obscene bishop’s group was successful. ……Princess Juliana’s memento arrive a little while ago. Once this affair with Douglass here is settled we will announce her passing to the public.”

Prince Sect let out a sigh before looking at the loyal retainer kneeling before him before muttering in a low tone.

“Afterward, it’s Marudoira…… Such a shame to have to undermine the hard work of one’s own parents.”

“Father is already an old man. Is it not one’s filial duty to take over for the parent once their time has passed…”

Setorion nodded at Sect’s words before calmly offering his reply.

“Is that so──, I take it that the necessary preparations are complete?”

“Yes.”

When the two’s eyes caught one another, Prince Sect prompted Setorion with a nod, who proceeded to draw his sword yet again.

“Should I refrain from making it too deep? That said, it would be difficult for me to not hold back.”

Accepting the difficult order from Sect, Setorion nodded once before stabbing his sword into the prince’s left arm in one stroke.

“Gaaah!”

The prince a short pain-filled shout.

The sleeve of Sect shirt was torn and blood sprayed in a flashy manner, making the injury appear rather serious.

Once Setorion confirmed his handiwork he quickly sheathed his sword and offered it to the prince.

“Your highness, please report to the temple of healing as this affair is settled.”

Sect received the sword and nodded as sweat streamed down his face.

Setorion quickly stepped off the carriage and instructed the driver to head towards the

nearest temple.

Soon the sound of a whip cracked in the dark of the night as the black carriage ran towards the temple at full speed.

For a moment, Setorion looked back at the disappearing carriage before glancing at his subordinate knights, then at the sky in the direction of their destination.

“To the Etsuato company, quickly.”

Setorion’s low voice increased the knight’s tension.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 20

V2 Chapter 20

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Raid on the Etsuato company」Part 1

The Etsuato trading company was located in the capital's third district.

As the largest slave dealer in the capital, it's main building was built near the wall of the second district and appeared to be frequented by many wealthy visitors.

Slavery has had a variety of origins in human history, from criminals being reduced to that status, people selling themselves or others into slavery, to people taken as prisoners of war.

In the case of this world, the majority of the slaves are one-sidedly kidnapped from beastmen villages by human mercenaries and then sold into slavery.

Those that called themselves the People of the Mountains and Plains are human-like beings with the ears and tails of animals, and they are known to have greater physical strength than humans. Because of that reason the race faced rejection and seclusion.

Due to the People of the Mountains and Plains' high physical strength, there was a high demand for them so they could be used in mining operations.

Since this is the center of Rhoden Kingdom, many of the slaves were brought to the multiple slave merchants to be sold to the nobles and wealthy.

And the most influential company of them all was the Etsuato company.

A tall fence surrounded the company's building and the main gate had been reinforced with iron bolts that caused it to stand out from the surrounding shops.

However, the sturdy gate wasn't even a shadow of what it had been previously, because right now it was reduced to a pile of rubble that had been tossed aside.

The gate had indeed been sturdy, but since it's size and thickness weren't built to withstand a siege weapon, it was disappointingly easy to destroy when my body slammed into it.

The gate in Hoban might have been somewhat stronger.

When I destroyed the gate, Chiome wasn't surprised at all and simply said that her companion Goemon could have done the same.

Once we passed the destroyed gate we immediately began to search the building.

Night had already descended and things weren't going so well as the only light sources in the building were a few magic tool lamps.

The building was four stories tall and had a large courtyard in front of it.

Up 'til on, we've only found locked up human slaves, and nary a hint of the enslaved People of the Mountain and Plains.

This operation was supposed to be a decoy, so we decided to free the human slaves.

During our break in, I had defeated a high-spirited guard and swiped a large key ring from his waist.

I tossed the keys at the feet of one of the slaves and then bent the cell's bars so that a single person could pass through at a time. The slaves that saw this backed away in fear. Once we stepped away from the cage, they began to scramble for the key ring before all of them crawled out of the cell.

However, when the crawling slaves looked up, they all started to scream and ran out of the building as fast as they could.

I couldn't really blame them for that.

What they saw was a person wearing a gray cloak whose eyes were hidden within the depths of their hood. This was none other than the dark elf Ariane, who wore a mask to complete her ensemble.

The kumadori-like patterns engraved into the mask and the eeriness brought on by the dim lighting gave her the appearance of a wicked shaman.

I wasn't any different with my black cloak and the demonic looking helmet that was covered in decorative bird feathers.

In preparation for the raid, we found a street vendor that sold art pieces and bought the masks we were now wearing.

With these, the chances of our true identities being revealed were now only a one-to-ten-thousand chance.

To be honest, our appearance was only a superficial excuse because there isn't anyone who wouldn't be scared of a person that can bend metal bars with their bare hands.

But… Chiome wasn't the target of much fear since her full-body ninja garbs allowed her to blend into the shadows of the dark building.

Whenever a small amount of light penetrated the darkness I would catch a glimpse of Chiome in the corner of my eye, as she lurked in the shadows and cut down another slave trader.

Chiome was a cat person, so she had night vision like Ariane, and combined with her quick body it was unlikely that human eyes would be able to keep track of her in the darkness.

As I continued to admire her abilities while we searched, Chiome seemed to become slightly prideful.

"The first clan head was quoted as saying that the members of the cat-people race were supreme existences."

Chiome repeated the first clan head's words and out of that auditory hallucination I came up with "The best of all animal-eared people! Cat ears are the strongest!"

After driving away the hallucination I asked about something that had started to bother me.

“Was the first head a cat person as well?”

“No, the first had been human. The first was a spy for the Leburan empire and when he saw the mistreatment of the cat people in the empire he protected them and eventually made them his subordinates. That is how the present Blade Heart Clan was founded.”

“Hoo, so you didn’t remain part of the empire?”

“Correct. The first generation were excellent spies and they accumulated so many achievements that people started to fear the first head’s power. As his exploits grew, the first head was targeted for assassination many times, yet he was able to skillfully overcome all the attempts.”

Chiome eyes narrowed as she continued to tell the story.

It’s inevitable that a person with great power would be the target of fear. Moreover, as a human surrounded by cat people instead of other humans, he would be meet with even greater suspicions and alienation.

“After that, the Emperor fell from power and the struggle for the throne began, so the first head went into hiding as the various factions fought it out. A large-scale civil war soon broke out and the first head used the confusion to lead the clan out of the empire.”

If I’m not mistaken, the Leburan Empires were large countries to the north of Rhoden. Could the reason that the Empire is divided even to this day be the result of the first head’s actions……?

When her story was finished Ariane spoke up.

“Chiome-chan these cells are full of People of the Plains and Mountains.”

It was as she said, the passage we were now in was lined with cells full of people with various figures.

There were cat people like Chiome, wolf-eared people, and people with long rabbit ears that were a little similar to elven ears.

Since the People of the Plains and Mountains lack the high magic-power of the elves, they weren’t bound with the magic eating collars.

Instead, every single one of them was chained to the wall with shackles and fetters made of heavy iron in order to restrict the movements of their high-spec bodies.

After a cursory glance of the cells, I could only internally sigh at the number of people that had to be freed.

When I stepped forward to help, everyone looked upon me with wariness before retreating as far back as they could in the cell.

Again, it was an understandable reaction because anyone would be wary of a duo wearing strange masks and black and gray cloaks respectively.

Some of the cells had young children inside them that started to cry when they saw us. Several scowling young men even stood in front of the children in an attempt to protect them.

We somehow have assumed the role of the villains.

It was at this moment that a group of bodyguards and slave traders suddenly appeared from somewhere deeper inside the building, running towards our current position.

“I am Chiome of the Blade Heart Clan and I’ve come to help you! Listen to Arc-dono’s instructions when they are given!”

Chiome told the people in the cell that as she brandished her dagger and charged at the approaching group.

The people in the cells suddenly stirred at Chiome’s statement.

“Hey, did you just say the Jin Shin Clan?!”

“Is that true?! Who are those weird people?!”

I saw the caution in their eyes turn into a small ray of hope. The Blade Heart Clan was apparently well known.

While Chiome rushed the bodyguards and slave dealers, I began to do my part of this raid.

First, let’s destroy these cells.

I went about distorting the iron bars of the cells with my bare hands to make a traversable opening. I bent the bars to the point where the opening was the large enough that even I could pass through it.

Those watching in the cell gasped in surprise and admiration.

Next, would be the removal of the shackles and fetters, but I didn’t find a set of keys to unlock them like with the humans.

Since there was no other option, I drew my sword from under my cloak to cut the chains, and everyone obviously shrank back when I held up my sword.

“I need to cut the chains of the strongest people first.”

My voice was muffled by the mask and that caused the people to hesitate.

“Kyun!”

Suddenly Ponta popped up from beneath my cloak in front of everybody.

Before the raid, Ponta had been planted atop my head as usual, but in combination with the mask she would’ve attracted even more attention, and that’s why she had been wrapped around my neck until now.

It must have been stuffy under everything so she came up for fresh air.

The appearance fluffy fox around the neck of a strange masked figure caused the people to stare as such an indescribable sight.

They all fell silent and it looked like nobody in the cells knew what to do in this situation.

Sounds of an intense battle was heard as Chiome clashed with the bodyguards from the depths.

“Hurry up, their reinforcements will be arriving soon!”

After hearing Ariane’s shout and seeing things unfolding, one man took a step forward.

The man had ears similar to Chiome’s, but their size and coloring were like those of a tiger or leopard rather than a cat’s.

Despite his large size, the man timidly held up his shackled hands.

When I slashed at the chains of the shackles they were cut without any resistance and the man could freely move his arms again.

“Sorry. You’re here to save us after all.”

“Yes.”

The leopard man was a little teary eyed as I chimed in while cutting the chains connecting the fetters.

“Please start cutting the chains of the others with this!”

When the leopard man could once again move freely, Chiome reappeared and handed him a large axe.

I saw that there was blood dripping from the axe’s handle, so it was probably a weapon taken from one of the dead bodyguards. When he received the axe, the leopard man started to slash the chains of his brethren.

However, he had to struggle since there was no way the iron chains could be cut easily with an ordinary axe.

As for me, there was no way a mythical grade weapon couldn’t cut through the chains, so I quickly cut them off the slaves one after another.

Soon a group of guards in matching armor rushed in from the rear entrance.

“Don’t let the slaves and thieves escape! If you can’t capture them, kill them!”

The guard captain handed out instructions to his subordinates as they all draw their swords. A solitary shadow suddenly approached the group at a speed faster than the eye could follow.

『Water Style: Water Wolf Fang!!』

Chiome performed a hand sigh similar to certain ninja manga as she charged at the guards, and suddenly three one-meter tall water wolves appeared around her and she commanded them to attack the guards.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter 21

V2 Chapter 21

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Raid on the Etsuato company」Part 2

“What is that? Do they have a Magician!?”

The water wolves summoned by Chiome’s ninjutsu evaded the sword swings of the guards and began to bite into their arms and legs, making them scream and roll on the floor in agony.

Occasionally a sword would hit one of the wolves, but the blade would pass right through it, making me think that normal swords couldn’t affect them.

Ariane was about to jump into the fray but she stopped for a moment in order to analyze Chiome’s movements.

Since her face was covered by the mask her expression couldn’t be seen, but her astonishment easily came through.

However, the pause was only for a brief moment, immediately after that the two of them started to cut down one injured guard after another.

My heart was conflicted since I knew that these were just guards hired to keep the peace and arrest thieves.

But looking at the way humans treated the People of the Plains and Mountains, I couldn’t help but question this ambiguous situation and the ever changing values of an era.

I shook those thoughts out of my head and focused on the present where I needed to do my job and free the slaves.

There were about twenty people in this cell and I just finished cutting the last of the chains.

However, there were still a significant number of people chained up in the other cells.

I opened up the next cell like the first one and start cutting chains one after another. The freed people took the initiative and started working on freeing the others.

Thanks to that the rate at which the slaves were freed increased.

The number of guards continued to increase, but as you’d expect from a race with high physical abilities, once they picked up the scattered weapons and joined Ariane and Chiome, the guards were instantly repelled.

Meanwhile, the number of people freed numbered almost seventy, and a considerable amount of them had joined the battle against the guards.

The number of guards coming here has increased and the building was already under siege.

Simply put, we were approaching the limits of this passageway and this situation was highly advantageous for the high-spec People of the Plains and Mountains.

Because of the indoor guerilla warfare the kingdom's army couldn't make use of their numerical advantage, but there was still a chance for them to grow impatient and level the entire building with a barrage of magic.

We could not afford to take things slow and steady.

Since others were now helping me free everyone, I made destroying the cages my top priority and moved deeper into the building.

Before long I came across a large gate with a group of guards glaring in my direction.

One of the larger guards was holding up two struggling children by their necks. The long rabbit ear and drooping dog ears made it clear that the little girls dressed in old rags weren't human.

"You! That's quite the fancy outfit you got there! Bastard do you think we don't know you're beastman from 'Emancipator!? It'd be a shame if something happened to these kids, right?"

"I am not part of Emancipator, I am Arc. Why don't you just let the children go?'

It was only after I introduced myself and requested the release of the children did I realized my mistake.

――Crap, despite going through the trouble of wearing a mask I just gave them my name.

Internally, I was tearing out my hair for my carelessness. The opposition took my silence as an indication that having the hostages was effective because the large man gave a vulgar smile as he tightened his hold on the girls' necks.

"Bwaha! Don't resist if you want them to live!! A good deal, right? Be sure to behave yourself!"

Spit flew from the man's mouth as he shouted while the other men started to smirk as they draw their weapons and gradually shrink their encirclement.

As the distance between myself and the other men shortened, the corners of the large man's mouth began to raise as he was assured of his victory.

The moment the men were about swing their weapons, I used 【Dimensional Step】 to transfer behind the large man.

I grasped the man's head with both hands and twisted with all my might.

There was a dull sound of bones breaking and the man was now making eye contact with me.

The man's eyes widened in surprise for a moment as the muscles beneath his neck gave out, his pants darkened with waste, and the children fell from his arms.

His body fell to the floor like a doll that had been smashed against the wall.

The girls freed from the chokehold coughed for a bit before they looked up at me in fright.

“Close your eyes for a bit. The scary men will be gone soon.”

“Kyun.”

I softly patted the heads of the two five or six-year-old girls, who had to see Ponta around my neck, before giving me a nod and covering their eyes with their hands while calmly sitting down on the spot.

“Shit! What did you do!?”

The men that had been smirking just a second ago as they surrounded me were now shaken and trying to figure out what happened.

I took advantage of their confusion and struck down the closest men.

I swung my fist with explosive force into the man’s face and chest, and the resulting sound of bones shattering caused the others to scream.

Not even ten seconds had passed before the heads and chests of the remaining men were all completely deformed.

I had thought that a battered corpse would have been better than a bloody one, but that doesn’t seem to be the case.

When I returned to the girls that had kept their eyes closed as promised, I whispered to avoid startling them.

“It’s alright, you can now open your eyes. The scary men are gone.”

Inside I was sneering at myself for saying that while wearing a feather decorated ogre mask, when I heard familiar voices from behind me.

“Arc, we’re finished over there. The next area should be the only place left, right?”

“Arc-dono, sorry for making you wait.”

The introduction of Ariane’s masked form frightened the girls, but when they saw their stealthily dressed, cat-eared brethren, they calmed down again.

“Once things are finished here we can escape with transfer magic.”

I spoke my confirmation while opening the large door that led to the last area of the building.

The nice looking furniture and the table surrounded by chairs gave the place the atmosphere of a small, clean residence.

It must have been a conference room used for business negotiations.

While I looked around the room, the two little girls peeked through the door before entering the room.

Chiome entered after the two, followed by Ariane while I brought up the rear.

After opening another door, we followed a long passage when we started to smell something rancid.

The room at the end of the passage reeked of sweat and dried grass, and was filled with almost completely nude People of the Plains and Mountains chained to the wall.

Many of the women here had bulging stomachs that indicated a pregnancy and all of them were frightened the moment they saw me.

The girls ran up and tearfully embraced two different women that were both dressed in rags and had large stomachs.

This couldn't be anything but a breeding pen…

They were impregnating these women to sell the children as slaves… I doubted the practice would be very profitable, but judging by the scale of this company it's likely that this was a small, experimental farm.

There was no way to not feel nauseated after looking at this.

"Ariane-dono, could you please see if you can find them something to wear."

"……Yeah, I got it……"

When I called out to her, a speechless Ariane quickly left the room in search of something to dress these poor women in.

Chiome frowned and had to close her eyes and calm herself down before she started to speak in her usual, monotonous voice

"I know how to pick locks, let's hurry up and get away from this place…."

"Alright."

Chiome kneeled down in front of one of the women's fetters before taking out a set of small metal tools from her breast pocket. After fiddling with the keyhole for a moment, the fetters came off with a 'Gachari' sound.

Following her example, I cut the chains of a nearby dog-eared man with my sword. Since it was difficult to use a two-handed sword in such a situation, I was thinking about getting a sharp dagger.

Ariane finally returned after everyone's hands and feet had been freed.

"There weren't many clothes, so we'll have to make do with these."

She was holding out a bundle of cloth in her hands.

A closer look at the larger pieces of cloth revealed that they were actually bed sheets and curtains. I suppose that wearing these was better than nothing.

I took a few and started handing them out along with Ariane.

"Arc-dono, let's move these people first."

"Fine, let's used the hall from before as our base of operations."

Following my reply, Chiome started to lead the people to the hall we passed through.

The people started to stir and question what was going to happen as I stood at the center of the room and invoked the spell, pouring in more mana than usual.

"【Transfer Gate】"

Once the magic was invoked, a larger than normal magic formation spread out across the

hall’s floor and illuminated the whole room.

The gathered people went stiff and the animal ears atop their heads stood up in attention.

Things went dark for one moment and in the next moment the petrified people were standing in a plain illuminated by moonlight.

The wind carried the sounds of insects as it blew across the surrounding grass. Visible in the distant south was the royal capital Olav.

After we bought the masks from the street vendor we had come here to perform a preliminary inspection of a possible transfer destination. Though I couldn’t see the entire capital like I did during the daytime, it still had more street lights than other cities.

When people started to understand the situation, some began to cry tears of joy while others asked Chiome for an explanation.

Space opened up around us since no one wanted to approach the two cloaked figures that wore strange masks.

Or that’s what I thought until the rabbit-eared girl I saved and the women that seemed to be her mother walked up to me with tears in their eyes and half sobbed “Thank you” while bowing in front of me.

“Uhmmm, as long as you take care of your daughter……”

As I nodded and responded to her thanks, I noticed a group of people approaching from the shadows.

Although I couldn’t make them out all that well in the moonlight, they were dressed in ninja garbs similar to Chiome’s and they all had cat ears atop their heads.

Chiome went over to have a long talk with the new group before she turned and began to speaking to everyone in her usual monotone voice.

“These people will lead you to a safe location. Follow the instructions they give.”

After speaking amongst themselves for a bit, the freed people began following Chiome’s cat ninja companions.

“Leave things to them. Let’s return and free the others.”

“Alright. Let’s go!”

The magic formation of 【Transfer Gate】lit up and I set the hall back at the Etsuato company as the destination.

The moment we returned to the hall we found ourselves surrounded by weapon-wielding People of the Plains and Mountains that were staring at us in surprise.

“Huh!? Who!?”

They were all surprised when three people suddenly appeared out of nowhere, but they calmed down when they realized that we were the same people that had freed them.

“Sorry, we didn’t realize it was you all. ……You wouldn’t happen to know what happened to our brethren that were imprisoned in this area?”

One middle-aged looking man with dog ears stepped forward as the group's representative and asked for the whereabouts of the others.

"They have already been moved out of the building. My companions are already taking them to a hidden location."

Chiome moved down her face mask before offering a brief explanation. The surrounding people sighed in relief once they heard her answer.

"How goes the rescue operation and the battle against the guards?"

"Everyone is out of the cells, but half of them are still in chains. The guards have fortified their cordon around the building but only attack sporadically.

The dog-eared man gave Chiome a report of the situation.

She lightly nodded at the report before prompting me with a look.

I nodded to her before invoking 【Transfer Gate】 once again.

After leaving the new group with Chiome's companions, we immediately went back and returned to the passage with all of the cells.

A number of people hung around the cell and were in the middle of getting the fetters off the remaining people while others were fighting off the guards that occasionally attacked.

The People of the Mountains and Plains were basically the only ones left, since all the human slave traders and guards had been almost completely wiped out. A couple of guards would occasionally launch an attack, but every time the fight started to turn into a match of endurance they would immediately retreat.

Since there wasn't a lot of time left we began to gather the clamoring people into groups and taking them to the grass plain with 【Transfer Gate】.

When we had finished making all the round trips, more than a hundred People of the Plains and Mountains had been freed from the Etsuato company building.

They had all been confused and surprised by the situation, but once they realized that 【Transfer Gate】had taken them away from their prison to this grassy plain, one after another started to bow their heads towards me.

The only real problem was that some pieces of the destroyed cells and chains came along with everyone, which ruined the atmosphere.

"Everything has gone according to plan."

Ariane muttered that as she removed her mask and lowered her hood as she stared back at the capital.

Pushing that thought into the back of my mind I nodded and said.

"I'll go finish the job then."

I used 【Transfer Gate】 and returned to the Etsuato company alone.

There were no other people inside the company's building, and everything was covered by an eerie atmosphere because of the silence.

After making sure that not even a shadow of a living person was left inside I invoked a magic spell.

“【Stone Fangs】!”

When the intermediate level spell activated, stone spikes started to pierce the building from the ground, easily passing through the second floor at a sharp angle.

As all this was happening, the sound of the rumbling floor and the creaking building started to rock the area.

As a finishing blow, I began to fire 【Rock Bullet】 at the support pillars on the opposite side of the yard. When the dust settled, the pillars looked as if they were blown away with a howitzer. The sound of creaking started to get louder as the building could no longer support it’s own weight thus was on the verge of collapse.

It wasn’t long before the building started to collapse in on itself like a chain of dominoes.

Witnessing the events unfolding till the end, I invoked 【Transfer Gate】 for the last time and returned to the grassy field.

Chiome called out to me while I was brushing off the dust from the collapsing building.

“Arc-dono, thank you for aid in this matter.”

Several of Chiome’s ninja companions turned in my direction and started to rise. Among them was a figure that I recognized.

He was dressed in similar ninja garb as Chiome and had triangular ears atop his head. He was two meters and thirty centimeters tall and had a body packed with steel-like muscle, he also projected the same atmosphere as the conqueror of century’s end.

This could be no one other than the turban wearing man I had seen in the capital earlier today.

Chiome introduced him as Goemon, one of the Blade Heart Clan’s six best ninjas.

I could totally believe that he could have destroyed a building’s gate with a single punch.

The man named Goemon held out his rough hand and silently demanded a handshake. I merely nodded and accepted the handshake, after which he began to flex his right bicep.

I didn’t understand the meaning but when I assumed a flexing pose he nodded in satisfaction before walking away.

I unmasked before giving Ariane a questioning glance, but she simply shook her head in response.

Without minding the atmosphere, Chiome continued to offer her thanks in a light tone.

“Ariane-dono, Arc-dono we can’t thank you enough for the help you provided this time.”

“This job helped us furthering our own agenda, so we didn’t mind.”

“As long as we could lend a hand. Where will you go from here?”

Our response was natural since we only helped Chiome for the information we needed.

Chiome looked up at a mountain range that laid in the horizon.

“I will be heading to the hidden village located in the Calcutta mountain range.”

“Havn’t your brethren built a large country on the southern continent?”

Ariane suddenly approached Chiome with a question about a country on a whole other continent.

The only change in Chiome’s express was a lowering of her eyebrows.

“Yes. However, it’s difficult to cross the sea with a great number of people and the climate here is acceptable for our people.’

As the group of freed slaves began their trek to the Calcutta mountain range, their numbers quickly swelled beyond two hundred.

Those simultaneously rescued from the other locations were meeting up here.

Considering the number of people heading to live in the hidden village and their limited means of transportation, there’s no doubt that they would be targeted by mercenaries sent out to reclaim the slaves.

“It would be acceptable for you to know the location but……”

“?”

Chiome thought aloud as she stared at them before she uneasily shook her head and looked back at me.

“No. More importantly, you two should receive your reward.”

Chiome straightened up before changing the topic.

Ariane and I looked directly into Chiome’s eyes when she said that.

“Drusus De Barishimon, the person that you two are looking for, is a viscount of the Holy Leburan Empire.”

The sound of the blowing wind became louder as it runs across the grassy plains and caused my cloak to greatly flutter.

……It seems that this tale wouldn’t just end in the Rhoden Kingdom.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 2 - Chapter Epilogue

Epilogue

The Rinburuto Arch dukedom was located southeast of the Rhoden Kingdom.

It was originally a territory of the Rhoden Kingdom, but during the war with the elves six hundred years ago, Duke Tishiento and his family advocated peace with the elves and broke off from the kingdom and formed the Arch dukedom.

Back then, the Kingdom harbored no goodwill towards Rinburuto but after losing the war against the elves, Rhoden wasn't in any position to challenge Rinburuto over the matter.

Since the Tishiento family has promoted harmony with the elves since the founding of the Rinburuto Arch dukedom, the Dukedom became the only human trading partner of the elves.

The performance of elvisn magic tools was superior to those of human origin, and for that reason they were very sought after.

Rhoden Kingdom originally started the war against the elves because they desired their magic tools and knowledge, but the war ended with the overwhelming victory of the outnumbered elves of Great Canada Forest against Rhoden Kingdom, which had been the continent's second largest country back then.

The other foreign countries that had wanted the elves' technology were surprised at the result and abandoned their plans of attacking the Elves, trying to shift their focus towards trade negotiations instead.

However, the elves withdrew into the Great Canada Forest and the only country they would trade with was the Rinburuto Arch dukedom. As a result, Rinburuto held the monopoly on elven magic tools, allowing such a small country to rapidly raise in power.

Currently in Rinburuto's capital, an enormous harbor was built along the gulf of Arudoria that housed ships from all over the northern continent. Adjacent to this magnificent harbor was a sprawling city.

Naturally, the population here was higher than Rhoden Kingdom's capital city. Merchants came from all over the world to buy elven magic tools, resulting in a booming sea trade that surpassed both of the Empires. Even the elves, who had long ago disappeared from other countries, could be seen walking the city's streets.

Said streets were unusually active today as more than a hundred of the nation's soldiers were leading a black carriage, in the middle of a military formation, straight to

Rinburuto’s palace.

The one inside the carriage was none other than the second princess of the Rhoden Kingdom, Juliana Marill Melissa Rhoden Olav.

Her long, dark blonde hair that hung in loose waves from her head, only complemented her beautiful brown eyes and lovely features.

She was viewing the lively cityscape from the carriage window as it slowly passing by her eyes.

Ten days had passed since the attack in the forest at the base of the Annette mountains.

After leaving the area of the attack, her party had been on high alert as they avoided the main roads and were somehow able to cross the section of the Riburuto river that separated the Kingdom and the Dukedom.

Immediately after entering the Rinburuto Arch Dukedom, they proceeded to Marquis Vibrato’s castle and asked him for protection.

The thirty guards that had survived the attack had been exhausted by the time they reached Riburuto.

Miraculously, there was nary a wound to be found from the attack, but the lost horses, their wariness against pursuers, and minimal number of rest had caused a remarkable amount of fatigue to accumulate.

After thanking Marquis Vibrato for allowing them to stay in his castle, Juliana sent a messenger to Lady Serena in Rinburuto’s capital.

The messenger returned almost immediately, along with the soldiers, on the third day of her stay with Marquis Vibrato.

It was under the protection of the Arch dukedom’s national army that Juliana was escorted to the capital from Vibrato’s domain.

Before long, Juliana’s carriage approached the large stone bridge that lead to the Archduke’s palace at the center of the Rinburuto.

A large moat had been dug around the palace and filled with seawater. The bridge crossing the moat was surrounded by a crowd of people with fishing lines extending towards the water, creating a peaceful scenery.

After crossing the moat, the carriage passed the castle ramparts and the white walls of the palace from which the Rinburuto Arch dukedom was ruled became visible. A multitude of elegantly decorated/carved spires gave the palace a solemn atmosphere, displaying the country’s power and abundant wealth.

“The beauty of this place hasn’t changed at all……”

Feruna’s comment broke the princess’s chain of thought and made her look up.

Princess Juliana silently nodded in agreement before turning towards the palace entrance.

What she saw was a line of guards standing in front of the palace’s grand staircase. Standing behind the soldiers dressed in excellent body armor was a familiar face.

The carriage slowly advanced through the palace gardens and stopped just before the grand stairway.

The moment the driver opened the carriage door, princess Juliana jumped out and ran towards the familiar person.

“Melia-oneesama!”

“Maril, you’re safe!”

The person princess Juliana called Melia ran towards her and softly embraced her while tearfully addressing her by her childhood name.

Her hair was the same dark blonde shade as Juliana’s and neatly tied up while her brown eyes were filled with love. The women who embraced Juliana and was wearing a beautiful light blue dress was Juliana’s older sister that married into the Archduke’s family, Serena Melia De Olav Tishiento.

“All that matters is that you’re alive……

“I’m sorry I made you worry Meria-oneesama……”

Juliana’s eyes teared up as she heard her sister speak and she buried her face in her sister’s bosom.

“I fainted when I heard that you were struck down by Douglass in Rhoden……”

“Onee-sama, what in the world are you talking about?!”

When Juliana heard her sister’s comment she lifted her head and demanded an explanation.

“There seems to have been some chaos in Olav a little while ago. In the midst of that confusion, Douglass tried to kill Sect. Though Sect was injured, he managed to turn the tables and kill Douglass instead……”

“……Is that so. What of my supposed slaying?”

“When Douglass was defeated he was carrying the necklace mother gave you in his breast pocket. Major general Marudoira was implicated in Douglass’ actions and his execution was announced.”

Juliana looked down at her own chest as Serena spoke.

The memento from her mother was something she had always wore, but she had been unable to find it after the attack. Since they had to be on the lookout against pursuers, she had been forced to leave empty-handed with tears in her eyes.

It seems to have been stolen by the assailants so Juliana was outraged and relieved hearing it had been in Douglass’s hands, but feelings of doubt began to stir in her heart.

“……What’s the situation with major general Marudoira?”

“Apparently, the chaos in the capital was his doing, but his son, general Setorion, swiftly stopped him.”

Hearing the whole story Juliana turned around to hide her complicated feelings. However,

her sister softly patted her head and quietly whispered gentle worlds in Juliana's ear that calmed her troubled heart.

"……You survived, that's all that matters to me."

The worries in her heart incredibly faded away as she buried her face into her kind older sister's chest.

Emperor POV

The Holy Leburan Empire was located in the northeastern region of the Northern continent.

In the center of the Empire's immense territory, situated on a large plain, was the capital city Habaren, which boasted a total population of 80,000 people. The city was built in a circular configuration where all the main roads lead to the elevated palace of the Emperor.

Siguenza, the palace at the center of the capital, was austere rather than elegant since it had originally been built as a fort back when the Leburan Empires had still been a single country

In the inner sanctum of Siguenza Palace was a room serving as the emperor's office.

Sitting in the chair reserved for the ruler of this country was a young man. His head was covered with red, slightly curly hair and he was dressed in a plain, military uniform.

This man was Domitianus Leburan Valetiafellbe, the young emperor of the Holy Leburan Empire.

He had been quietly leaning on his elbow and staring at the enlarged map of the empire when he heard a knock at the room's door.

"Enter."

Since there were no servants at all inside the room, and only a few specific people had permission to enter this room in the first place, the permission to enter was given in a rude tone.

When the door opened, a slightly overweight man dressed in flashier clothes than the emperor entered. His large stomach shook as he walked, a pitiful excuse for a mustache grew under his nose and his smiling face gave off a shady impression.

This person, dressed like what appeared to be a wealthy merchant, was Verumoasu Du Laizehl, the chancellor of the Holy Leburan Empire.

"What do you want Verumoasu?"

The emperor looked up at Verumoasu's shady looking smile and immediately asked his question in a curt tone.

"Yes, your majesty. A short while ago I received a letter from our contact in Rhoden. It appears that first prince Sect has been declared as successor to the throne."

"What did you say?!"

The emperor shouted in response to chancellor Verumaosu's casual explanation.

Domitianus' outburst was unbefitting of an emperor but he just glared at the smiling chancellor.

Normally, one would try to hide the fact that they were taking pleasure in the misery of someone who was receiving terrible news.

However, chancellor Verumoasu made no attempt to hide his ever broadening smile as he offered the emperor a large nod.

"Yes. It seems that prince Douglass attempted to eliminate princess Juliana and prince Sect. The result was the death of the princess and prince Sect turning the tables on Douglass and killing him."

"What?! Why would that idiot Douglass carry out a plan like that?! This is the first time I've heard about this!"

Emperor Domitianus scowled as he cursed at the now deceased prince Douglass.

"They say Diento has been assassinated not too long ago. Is it possible that he grew impatient when the foundation of his faction was shaken?"

When the chancellor said that his belly shook in blatant amusement.

"The supplier of elves…… With Sect chosen as the next king, his ties with the west will strengthen and they'll encroach on the southern front……"

Domitianus started to groan as he folded his arms and looked at the map in front of him.

"The monster tamer corps showed promising results when they were tested in the northern raids on Wetorias, right?"

"……That's right. If the damage done by the monster tamer corps at Wetorias is any indication, then there would be no way an army can strike from the south. However, moving the monsters alone is certain to draw attention."

Looking at the same map, chancellor Verumoasu answered and vagely pointed towards Wetorias, a fortress inside the Great Leburan Empire, while Domitianus' pondered over his next course of action.

"After the attack on Wetorias, there were reports of a "great harvest" of magic stone……"

"……It is as you say. I'll convey your instructions to the Magic Institute."

When the chancellor bowed to him, Emperor Domitianus suddenly noticed something and asked the shady man a question.

"That reminds me, what happened to Funoba?"

"He is currently traversing the area around the Fire Dragon mountains. A particular strong monster seems to be frequenting the area."

"I see, he is bound to receive more work once the monster tamer corps becomes more active. Tell the Magic Institute to increase the production of the 『Ring of Submission』 ……"

When he finished speaking, emperor Domitianus gave a magnificent laugh

Namorax: (End of vol2)

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter Prologue

Prologue

The Great Leburan Empire of the northern continent's western region.

The capital of the Empire was called Vittelvare. It was a metropolis that had acted as the capital of the Leburan Empire even before it split into its eastern and western half, yet it still retained its dignified appearance.

A giant wall, erected out of polished stone, was built around the city. When a person left or entered the city they would see impeccably maintained streets and parks, as well as a multitude of pleasant looking people chatting about.

At the center of the capital was the emperor's palace, that was the size of a small town, dubbed Dionborg.

In a certain section of the palace, the rulers of the Great Leburan Empire were gathering in a hall. The current emperor, Garba Leburan Sergio Phoebus, sat on a luxurious throne at the apex of the national assembly.

His long white hair and beard were carefully combed back. Though the wrinkles on his forehead were thick, his eyes still carried the sharp glint of a bird of prey. Atop his head sat a gold and jewel encrusted crown, that acted as the symbol of imperial authority, and his body was adorned in extravagant clothes and a luxurious mantle. The gorgeous scepter in his hand was proof of the emperor's power.

Directly beside the sullen emperor sat a handsome young man and the country's five chancellors. In the emperor's line of sight sat the empire's fifty senators who were in the middle of arguing amongst themselves.

"Wetorias and the surrounding areas have been isolated by the frequent monster attacks! We request the national army to be dispatched immediately! The East is eying the land from across the Shiari river. With things as they are now, we have to prevent the East from crossing over."

"What did you say?! Wetorias already has one of the army's battalions stationed there! With those numbers, it should be easy to wipe out mere monsters!"

"That's right! If the East discovered that two thousand honorable soldiers of the border territory asked for aid, we would become a laughing stock! Not to mention the fact that moving the army would be a heavy financial burden! Is the north territory willing to take on that burden?"

“Huh, the southern territories can handle it! Didn’t the Urato and Shiana Mountain ranges have military forts at their bases for the sole purpose of slaying monsters? This is an opportunity to show their power and importance to everyone!”

Each senator was elected from their respective territories and thus this shouting match was nothing more than them trying to reap the most benefits for their territory.

The Great Leburan Empire was divided into four regions that were then broken up into territories ruled over by feudal lords. As a result, there were often skirmishes between the nobles of each region.

The emperor lowered his head at their unsightly bickering before looking at the man to his side. The handsome man, who was boasting a wide smile, was Saruwisu De Osto. He was the emperor’s official aide and as such rarely expressed any emotion beyond the smile stuck on his face.

Emperor Garba started speaking at a low enough volume so that the chancellors couldn’t hear him.

“What are your thoughts about the recent monster attacks?”

The senators were too busy arguing amongst themselves to look in this direction. Saruwisu turned away from the senators and looked at the emperor before he started to speak.

“With all due respect, according to our spies, it seems that the East has finally succeeded in their attempts to control monsters…… If that’s the case, then their main goal could be Burugo Bay south of Wetorias.”

Emperor Garba’s expression soured when he heard Saruwisu answer.

“I’ve heard there have been frequent sightings of Giant Basilisks and Ogres around Wetorias. If these beings can be controlled as the report says, then they could really pose a threat.”

“However, since no soldiers have been spotted so far, couldn’t it be possible that the East is just testing the effectiveness of the monsters at Wetorias?”

The Emperor glanced out into the distance as he sunk back into his throne.

“Hmph, if that eastern brat had such shallow thinking we would have devoured them a long time ago. The monsters probably aren’t tamed enough to be used alongside regular soldiers. The question is if they could be used in an ambush……”

“Should we take control of the northern army due to the recent raids?”

“No, if we make unnecessary moves in Wetorias, we would leave ourselves open for an attack across the river from Jerina. We should avoid being wedged between a northern and southern assault.”

The Emperor rested his elbow on his throne and stroked his chin as he expressed his concern.

“The East’s plans will surely be affected by what has transpired in Rhoden though.”

The emperor’s eyebrow raised upon hearing Saruwisu remake.

“Certainly. However, that Rhoden boy needs to gain control of the kingdom immediately.”

Emperor Garba stood up after saying that and furiously banged his scepter against the floor. The senators that had been arguing till now went completely silent as they focused on the emperor.

“Be quiet──”

Garba glared at all of the senators and told them to cease their arguments with a sonorous voice.

“If we leave things in Wetorias as they are now, we’d only be inviting those eastern rebels to cross the river. This situation will be handled by the army immediately, the southern army stationed at the northern edge of Tabor shall be dispatched as support.”

Something like a groan escaped the mouths of the senators at the emperor’s declaration. One of the older members stepped up and raised his hand. The emperor allowed the man to speak with a jerk of his chin.

“With all due respect, Tabor is located between the Urato mountains and the Bayonne mountains, an area prone to monster attacks. If the southern army patrolling that area is dispatched to Wetorias, wouldn’t that cause the trade and travel along the highway to stagnate?”

One after another, other members of the senate started to voice their opinions to the Emperor.

“The troops under the command of general Keling stationed at Harutobarak should be sent instead of those at Tabor. The Tabor soldiers can continue their duty while everything is underway.

“But in that situation the defenses at Harutobarak will be undermanned if-”

“The area doesn’t require such heavy protection since there are divisions located east of the Urato mountains and west of the Shiana mountains respectively.”

The older members of the senate write off of any potential problems, making quite a few other senators to sneer at them. A chuckle even escaped the lips of the observing senators.

“Are there any other opinions? Please remain standing if you are opposed to the suggestion.”

The senators simultaneously glanced at one another after the Emperor spoke, before rapidly taking their seats. Only a small number of senators remained standing.

Saruwisu looked around the hall for a moment before declaring the matter settled and moving on to the next point on the agenda.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 1

V3 Chapter 1

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「To the West」Part 1

Two people were walking down the highway at dusk. The sky was proceeding to turn a pale blue as dawn slowly approached.

A cool mist was coming off the Calcutta mountains in the north that obscured the vision of anyone trying to traverse the highway.

In the middle of this mist, there was a tall woman dressed in a gray cloak walking next to me. Visible through a gap in her cloak were a protective leather corset and the hem of a shirt that was easy to move in. Despite her humble attire, her large chest, thin waist, and round buttocks made her womanly charms known to all who saw her.

However, one look at her face revealed that she wasn't a human.

Her skin was smooth and lilac tinted, her hair long and snow-white, her eyes that stared straight ahead were golden and the ears at the side of her head were pointed.

She was one of this world's dark elves and currently my employer for the job I had taken on.

This woman was Ariane Glenys Maple. The majority of the elves lived in the Great Canada Forest and she was one of the forest's elite soldiers.

At her waist hung a sword with a guard in the form of a lion's head, which she could wield with enough proficiency to outclass skilled adventures. In this age, the main assets of the elves were their in-depth magical knowledge and their ability to use spirit magic that humans were unable to replicate.

As for myself, my body was the one of my game avatar that I had been playing as before I had been transferred into this world.

Underneath my black cloak was a set of full body armor fitting for a mythical knight, that had fine details etched into every piece along with white and blue undertones.

A jet black mantle, that was inlaid with a pattern seemingly cut from the starry night sky, hung off my shoulders.

A large, elaborately decorated shield and a two-handed broadsword were tied on my back, covering the luggage sack I have carried since the start of my travels.

The only problem was that inside this armor was nothing but a walking skeleton.

Underneath my helmet I was lacking a nose and the light of the dead filled my eye sockets.

Ariane had been the first person to see my true self without raising her sword against me. Since the number of people who would do that could be counted with the fingers on my

hands, I couldn’t take off my helmet in public.

However, I’ve had the good fortune to come across a small number of people that have been willing to except me.

Though I always had terrible luck at lotteries in my previous world, my luck seems to have improved since I’ve come here.

While I was absorbed in my thoughts, Ariane suddenly called out to me.

“Arc, what did you think of Chiome’s magic the other day?”

Arc was the name of my game character whose body I now possessed, and I had decided to act the same way I always did when I played the game. No, i am still not quite accustomed to this character’s way of living, but it became natural enough to not feel uncomfortable.

I looked at Ariane as I thought for a moment before breaking eye contact and looked straight ahead.

Chiome was the name of the girl we had helped freeing her enslaved brethren from a slave trading company in Rhoden Kingdom’s capital the other day. She had been a member of the People of the Plains and Mountains, the so-called beastmen that grew animal ears and tails.

Her ancestors had been led by another person from my world who appeared in this world six hundred years ago. Thanks to his influence, Chiome’s people formed the ninja-like Blade Heart Clan, whose purpose was to liberate their enslaved brethren scattered across the continent.

The elves and the people of the Plains and Mountains were persecuted by the humans of the northern continent, and thus they were exposed to the threat of slavery. Even in this strange world, prejudice among the races, similar to the history of Africans and Europeans, still existed.

My modern sensibilities as an Asian man saw neither Africans nor Europeans as superior to the other. That reminded me, when I had skin it was rather sensitive and would easily tan, though it wasn’t like I could be mistaken for a──

I had this strange feeling that I was missing something, but I didn’t know what.

Shaking the unrelated thoughts from my head I returned my gaze to Ariane.

Anyway, the reason Ariane and I were walking down this path was because it led to the next destination in our quest to free the enslaved elves.

In the Kingdom’s capital, Ariane, Chiome and I worked as a team in cooperation with the other agents of the Blade Heart Clan.

Ariane was probably talking about Chiome’s occasional use of ninjutsu. It seemed that ninjutsu could pass for magic in this fantasy world.

“Hum, is it possible that it was ninjutsu? You could be confusing the two Ariane-dono.”

“What she called ninjutsu seemed like a form of spirit magic to me……’

I let out a surprised cry at her comment.

“Huh? I thought that only the elves were capable of using spirit magic, but is it different?”

Ariane shook her head at my question.

“No, there were never any real restrictions on which races could use spirit magic. Even a human would be capable of using spirit magic if they make a proper contract …… However, it’s said that communicating with spirits is extremely difficult and potentially fatal for humans.”

Apparently, it was possible in theory, but synonymous with impossible in practice. I thought about some of the characteristics of the People of the Plains and Mountains as I walked.

“Now that you mention it, aren’t the People of the Plains and Mountains capable of bonding with spirit beasts?”

Spirit beast was the general name for creatures that housed the power of a spirit in their body, and they were extremely wary of humans. The elves and the People of the Plains and Mountains seemed to be the only ones that could tame spirit beasts.

“That’s right, however, most of the People of the Plains and Mountains have low magical power, so it’s rare for a contract to be established. Still, a few of them should at least be capable of performing spirit magic, however…”

Ariane lowered her eyes as if she was remembering what she saw in the capital the other day.

“When it comes to spirit beasts……”

She lifted her gaze to the spot atop of my head. She was looking at the place where the spirit beast Ponta currently and usually sat.

Ponta was a fox-like creature that was roughly sixty centimeters long. Her tail made up half of her body length and was puffed out like a dandelion. Despite her fox head, there were patches between her forelegs and hind legs that were similar to the legs of a flying squirrel. Her rather soft fur was green on the top and white on her underbelly.

The popular name for this kind of spirit beast was ‘Fluffy Fox’ and she had been with me ever since I freed her from a group of bandits.

Ponta was capable of using spirit magic to manipulate the wind and fly freely in the sky.

When she noticed Ariane’s stare, Ponta tilted her head.

“Kyun?”

I wonder if there was some kind of connection between Chiome’s people and spirit beasts like Ponta.

“What are you trying to say?”

I asked her about my honest concerns.

Ariane looked back at me before she began to slowly give her response.

“The spirit magic we elves use and the magic of the spirit beasts are different from each other. Based on the contract we’ve made, we have to offer a set amount of our own mana to the elemental spirits, who then convert it into magic. Spirit beast don’t need to form contracts since they are one with the spirits. They can simply convert their mana into magic directly.

“Hoo? So you’re saying that Chiome-dono not only managed to form a contract with a spirit but they also achieved a type of unification in order to use her brand of magic?”

“That’s right.”

Ponta suddenly loudly yawned before laying down on my helmet.

I raised my hand as asked Ariane another question I had

“Ariane-dono, are the elves capable of seeing spirits?”

“Yes. Elves can perceive magical entities that humans can not. We are able to see spirits and that allows us to facilitate communication with them. Do you remember the time we entered Great Canada Forest?”

She looked back as she asked about the time we visited the elven village of Raratoia a while ago. I nodded as I thought about the large forest

“The reason we avoided encounters with powerful monsters is because we only traversed paths with thin layers of mana. Dark elves are superior to normal elves in many physical aspects and one of those areas happens to be our perception capabilities.”

I came to a realization at her comment. When we entered the forest we didn’t go straight to the village, instead taking a complex path that I thought was meant to prevent me from knowing the way.

“I thought that was to prevent me from learning the way to the village……”

Hearing my muttering, Ariane looked a little surprised before shrugging her shoulders.

“Arc, you have transfer magic. What purpose would that have served?”

I realized she was right about that. I had a form of magic for both long-range and short-range transportation. It was a convenient spell that allowed me to transfer to any location that I could visualize, so it wasn’t really necessary for me to learn the way to any place. I suppose my directionally challenged self would be in a tough situation without transfer magic.

However, 【Transfer Gate】required me to have visited the location I wanted to transfer to at least once. On the other hand, 【Dimensional step】 could only be used at short distances and was unusable if my line of sight was greatly impaired.

“Hum, so the reason the elves can live in a monster-filled forest is because of that ability……”

“There are differences between individuals. They say that the magic power of the first cheif, Evangeline-sama, was so great that she could detect almost every monster..”

The first elven cheif of the elves was the one who had built the capital Maple and is someone I suspected of crossing into this world the same way I did. Maybe that person

came to this world in the body of an elf, and that ability was something exclusive to the elves?

However, she had said “most” and not “all” monsters, so there might have been limits to that ability…… A shame there was no way to question the deceased about this.

Dawn gradually started to break as I continued to ruminate on what I’d learned and walked down the highway. The mist coming off the mountain began to clear as daylight approached, and a cool wind blew across the area

The sound of the wind stroking the trees and plants welcomed the new day. The view of the highway opened up and I started to see a village in the distance.

We hadn’t really traveled far from the capital since I could still make out its vague outline in the distance.

“The surroundings have cleared up a bit. Let’s distance ourselves from here before anyone else comes by.”

When I nodded at her suggestion, Ariane placed her hand on my shoulder.

“【Dimensional Step】”

When I invoked the short range transfer magic we had moved to the farthest point of the highway I had been able to see.

I repeat to use the transfer magic on the highway that led to Lanbaltic, our next destination.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 2

V3 Chapter 2

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「To the West」Part 2

It was early morning and I was currently using transfer magic to travel down the highway with Ariane holding onto my shoulder and Ponta on my head. Though I called it a highway, it lacked any sort of pavement, or even laid brick, and was really only a stretch of flatted soil without any trees along it. Before long we came to a fork in the road.

“Ariane-dono, which path leads to Lanbaltic?”

I lacked confidence in my own sense of direction, so I turned to Ariane and asked her what she thought.

However, she only glared at me and questioned me in a blunt tone.

“Arc, I’ve never heard of the city before, why do you think I would know the roads of a human country?”

She was right of course. Though Lanbaltic was the next town keeping enslaved elves, I had only learned about it back in the capital.

Maps of countries weren’t sold in this world, in fact, I’ve haven’t even seen a map since I’ve come here. I’ve only found my way around by asking other people for directions.

The information I got in the capital told me to head west until I reached the coastal city of Lanbaltic.

But, in front of me were two paths separated by a group of large boulders. Both paths went in a western direction, but the right one veered northwest while the left one slightly went in the southwestern direction.

Either of the paths carried on towards the west. Because these paths weren’t as straight as modern roads I couldn’t see far down them. If the one we took led to a steep cliff, then we’d have taken a detour. A detour that would be time-consuming, considering the length of the roads in this era.

Although it’d be preferable to avoid such a detour I could always use transfer magic to return to this spot.

I casually looked around the highway until I found a sturdy looking tree branch on the ground. I picked up the branch, went back to the middle of the road, balanced it on one end and removed the hand keeping it balanced.

Gravity took over immediately as soon as the branch left my hand. When the branch hit the ground it pointed at the northwestern path.

“Well, to the right it is.”

I nodded to myself when a doubtful voice spoke up. It goes without saying that the voice

belonged to Ariane. Her eyes stared at me in protest as her cheeks puffed out.

“Wait a minute, is that really a suitable way to pick our path? Are you sure you heard the directions to Lanbaltic correctly back in the capital?”

“I’m sure I heard everything correctly, but I wasn’t told anything about a fork in the road.”

Ariane held her temple as she loudly sighed.

“Don’t you know a more suitable method to decide our path?”

“No, I’m entrusting my fate to the heavens!”

“Hey don’t just entrust my fate to anyone without my permission……”

She bent down to pick up the fallen branch as she protested before she closed her eyes and prepared to speak a prayer.

“Let us ask the spirits to decide on our way…”

After saying a prayer she let the branch fall out of her hands until a hit the ground with a dull sound. The branch was pointing in the same direction it did previously.

“……”

“Hum, so it was the right path after all.”

Ariane seemed dissatisfied with the results but she put her faith in the spirits. She silently placed her hand on my shoulder.

“Well, we can always come back here if it turns out to be the wrong way.”

I started down the right path a little happier that before. I continued to invoke 【Dimensional Step】 down the not-quite highway in the early morning.

As we advanced I began to notice that the landscape gradually started to change.

The green plains up till now gave way to reddish rocks as the air became dry, and clouds of dust started to be kicked up by the wind.

The forest was soon replaced with a mountain range as a desolate stretch of land opening up on my left side. Vegetation has become sparse and it was getting harder to keep track of the road as it began to mix into the surroundings. I started to look for a village as I began to feel that we’ve gone the wrong way.

My sight was blocked by a sudden gust of wind picking up another cloud of dust.

Ponta tightened her grip on my helmet and let out a cry 「Kyun!」 Ariane’s and my cloaks were noisily blown around by the gust of wind.

When the wind subdued, I tried to look for the next place to transfer to, but I stopped when I noticed Ariane and Ponta simultaneously reacting to something.

“What’s wrong?”

When I called out to Ariane, she placed her index finger over her lips as her golden eyes scanned the area. I became restless when I felt Ponta move from atop my head to the back of my neck.

I shut my mouth and began to search the area. I glanced over the mountains and the reddish barren land, but I didn't come across anything to be cautious of.

I thought so until I heard some kind of flapping being carried on the wind.

When I looked in the direction it was coming from, I saw dozens of shadows leaping into the air. Though it was hard to get a clear look from here, I could tell that the shadows were the size of very large birds.

"Wyverns!?"

Ariane glared at the sky and scowled as she saw the shadows leaping into the sky. There were around twenty of the so-called Wyverns in the sky and they were heading right towards us.

Ponta lowered her head and quickly wrapped herself around my neck as if she was a scarf.

"Wyverns huh……"

As they approached I started to get a clear view of them. Although their reptilian bodies were rather small, they had four-meter long wingspans. They also had long necks and bird-like heads. Their skin had the color of yellow ocher with a striped pattern. Their three-meter long tails were used like a rudder to change direction as they flow.

In order words, they were completely different from the Wyverns in the game.

"These Wyverns are different from those I'm used to, I never seem them before…… So Wyverns are active during the day and they fly in flocks……"

Ariane turned her head and groaned.

It seems she knew about these strange Wyverns, and now that I thought about it, it's not all that weird for animals to have different appearances based on the habitat they lived in. It's highly likely that these were a sub-species of Wyvern.

There is something I needed to know first……

"Are these Wyverns strong?"

I looked up at the sky as I asked Ariane that question.

The Wyverns in the game weren't considered all that strong. They were around level 100 and lacked any special attacks.

"Alone, they're nothing much, but when in large groups likes this one…… Arc, it's better if we avoid the hassle and just escape with transfer magic."

Certainly, in a game you'd never be attacked by a horde of this size nor would you be targeted from this far beyond the reach of your sword. In the game, flying enemies like Wyverns only floated a meter above the ground and could be reached even with a short sword.

However, considering the future, I think now is the perfect time to test the extent of my power. I've held out on using some of the flashier skills because they would attract unwanted attention and inconvenience me in a number of ways. But the only ones here were Ariane, Ponta and the flock of Wyverns. It should be alright to be a little flashy here.

“There are a few things I want to try. Ariane-dono, please stay back for a bit.”

I took a step forward as I said that and glared at the approaching Wyverns. Ariane started to say something but immediately closed her mouth.

I let go of my luggage sack and prepared for battle.

“【Rock Bullet】!”

I used a basic magic spell for a preliminary test. I began firing fist-sized rock projectiles from the palms of my hands straight into the flock of Wyverns. However the Wyverns, still dozens of meters in the sky, were able to avoid the rocks flying at them easily.

I repeatedly fired the same spell into the sky, but I didn’t even graze a single Wyvern. A spell that flew in a straight line was easily evaded by the agile flying Wyverns.

The Wyverns were now flying directly overhead and circled us like vultures waiting for their chance to strike. The only reason they haven’t attacked yet was because they were cautious of my constant magic bombardment.

“Well then, can you dodge this? 【Lightning Storm】!!”

The atmospheric pressure above the Wyverns rapidly shifted. In the next moment, the air trembled as a deafening roar tore through the area. Blinding flashes of light filled the area as lightning rained down on the Wyverns.

Though it was only a ranged lightning attribute magic of the intermediate wizard class, it was still impressive to see. It was truly a large and flashy magic spell.

When the lightning crossed with the flying Wyverns a few of them started to fall from the sky. However, a little over half of them hadn’t been hit.

“Hum, the accuracy isn’t all that high……”

The hit ratio of the flashy lightning magic wasn’t that high despite the resulting fanfare. As a comparison. if a modern weapon has an accuracy of less than 50%, it is considered defective.

The spell seemed to run on a one-shot system, only offering one or two shots before having to reload slowly. This is a little troubling as the magic indiscriminately attacked anything within a certain range.

However, the Wyverns were frightened by the sudden lightning strikes and scattered.

As I gazed up at the empty sky, Ariane screamed in protest.

“Hey, if you have such powerful magic say so! You scared me half to death!”

When I looked back at Ariane, I saw she was covering her ears and there were tears in the corner of her eyes. I suppose that anyone would be surprised by a sudden and flashy lightning show. Though I didn’t expect it to be so loud, I obediently apologized.

Ponta, who was originally wrapped around my neck, was now licking her forepaws to pat down her fur. Did the spell charge it statically?

“……With such powerful magic, you could do just about anything.”

Ariane sighed half in amazement and half in exhaustion as she looked around. Several of the Wyverns I struck down were all around us.

“I can’t do everything, I just do what I do.”

I spoke a certain phrase I’d heard somewhere else as I approached one of the Wyverns. It was relatively clean, with only a few scorch marks from the lightning strikes.

“Is there any value in these Wyverns?”

I asked Ariane that as I rolled the Wyvern over.

“Yes, the skin can be used to make training armor. The meat is no good, but the magic stone should be usable.”

I understood what she was talking about immediately. In the latter half of the game, Wyvern materials were used in a similar manner.

“Now that you mention it, what kind of leather is your armor made of, Ariane-dono?”

If Wyvern leather was made for trainees, it’s obvious that her equipment would be better than that. I asked her about it out of curiosity.

“It’s a Grand Dragon Leather Armor.”

“Oh, that’s some high-quality material!”

I responded in surprise to her answer. I don’t know if Grand Dragons are the same as the ones in the game, but their high-quality material drops remain the same.

“It’s still nothing compared to your armor.”

Ariane shrugged her shoulders and sighed yet again.

I grabbed a dagger from my luggage sack and inspected the Wyvern on the ground while we chatted.

“Ariane-dono, where is the magic stone located?”

“It should be in the same location as the Wyverns you’re familiar with.”

She pointed her finger a little below the center of the chest. When I cut into the section she pointed at I found a small, purple magic stone.

I cut out the eight remaining stone from the other ones I shot down and placed them in my sack.

“What should we do with the rest of it?”

“Even if we leave them here, won’t the people who want them take them?”

When I pondered on what to do about the Wyverns, Ariane responded to me in a low tone.

Certainly, if the materials could be turned into armor, even if it was just training armor, people would take the Wyverns if they’re just left on the side of the road. Maybe more than one person will want the material.

“You’re right. Let’s get a move on……”

I put my luggage sack over my shoulder as I spoke to Ariane and after a little bit, we

continued our trek down the highway with 【Dimensional Step】.

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V3 Chapter 3

⌈The wasteland town Buranbeina⌋

Before long, a town built atop a small hill next to the highway came into view. A stone wall surrounded the town and I could see the roofs of several box-shaped buildings peeking over the wall from here. Unlike other cities I've been to there was almost no decoration to the city, but the impression it gave off was more sturdy than impoverished.

I'd say the town looked more like a fort than anything.

The only patch of greenery in the reddish landscape was around the hill. There was an area of farmland around the town and there were barely any people maintaining it. Compared to the size of the fields, there weren't enough human silhouettes around to properly maintain them.

"Let's stop for a bit and ask for some directions."

"Well, it looks like the road started to lead north before we noticed……"

I didn't really notice until now, but the direction of the road had changed substantially. It was easy to lose sight of your direction when you follow a meandering road without a compass.

Without expressing a bit of my impatience, I turned off the road and headed towards the town.

The town walls were five meters high and made of clean stone, and atop the wall were the figures of guards.

The large front gate was wide open with only a single guard standing watch. When he noticed us the guard straightened his shoulders and stared in our direction.

When we reached the guard I extended my hand to him and began speaking.

"I know it sudden, but there's something I need to ask you. We're trying to get to a city called Lanbaltic, does the highway lead there?"

The guard looked puzzled at my question before turning to Ariane and looking her up and down. Ariane's true form couldn't be seen since she had hidden her face with her cloak's hood.

When he was finished, the guard looked back at me and answered the question.

"No, I've never heard of a place called Lanbaltic around here. Of course, I've never left this town so I only know of nearby villages……"

The guard looked embarrassed by this and started scratch his head.

Even in the modern era, you couldn't simply go to a foreign country and expect to immediately get directions a remote town.

“Hum, we’ll have to ask for directions in town then. How much is the entrance tax?”

I asked the guard that question as I reached for the leather pouch tied to my waist, however, the man just moved aside and urged us to pass.

“There is no entry tax for this town. Not enough people visit such a remote town to make an entrance tax profitable. Oh, but there a small fee for leaving.”

The man chuckled a little and welcomed us inside.

“Welcome to Buranbeina.”

We thanked the guard and set foot inside the town.

Despite being so early in the morning, there were a lot of people inside the city walls, completely different from outside. All the buildings were box-shaped and crowded together. The narrow gaps between the buildings created a complex maze of backstreets and alleyways. Thanks to the pieces of cloth hanging on the multiple clotheslines it was difficult to peer into the depths of the maze.

In the midst of this bustling town, multiple armed men with sleepy looking faces were walking around. Adventures were filtering into their respective inns while people with farming tool were coming out of private residents and heading towards the gate.

After walking against the flow of the crowd for a bit we came across an open marketplace. “Kyun!” After weaving through a group of housewives, Ponta caught the scent of something good and cried out, starting to wag her tail.

Ponta was staring at a street stall that was emitting the savory smell of roasted beans. Though not all that large, the beans looked similar to lentil, which needed to be roasted before eating.

She was probably hungry because she didn’t eat much in the capital. Because Ponta was crying out from atop my head the stall vendor noticed us in the middle of the noisy market and started to laugh.

“Hey, mister. How about it?”

“I’ll take two servings.”

The vendor said “Anytime!” in a booming voice as he took a wooden cup in his hand and scooped the beans into the leather pouch.

When I was about to ask for directions to Lanbaltic the stall owner chimed brought up a topic of his own first.

“Mister, are you here to hunt the Sand Wyverns?”

The question caused me to remember the Wyvern attack for before.

“No, are Sand Wyverns appearing frequently in this area?”

“Oh yes. Recently they’ve started to stray from the wastelands in large numbers and carry off a number of cattle.”

That must have been the Wyverns from before. Though their number must have been nearly halved…… However, instead of an atmosphere of crisis, there were many people

walking around the town with smiles on their faces.

“The situation sounds serious, but it doesn’t seem that way……”

When I looked at the surrounding shoppers while speaking, the vendor started to laugh.

“They are sensitive to sunlight, so they usually don’t fly around that much around this time of day. It’s rare for them to attack between daybreak and sundown. Groups of adventurers have come here in pursuit of Sand Wyvern leather……”

“Ho, for a shopkeeper you seem well informed about monsters.”

When I offered him a compliment, the vendor waved it off and handed over two pouches of beans while laughing.

“A monster researcher just happens to live in this town, that’s all. Thanks to his guidance the damage done to the town has been minimized. Ah, that’ll be three sok.”

“Such a talented person live here-, oh, I only have silver coins.”

I handed over a silver coin. The vendor handed me seven copper coins as change before resuming the conversation in a lower tone.

“Furthermore, the researcher is one of those rarely seen elves.”

Ariane stepped forward when she heard that.

“There’s an elf living in a human town!?”

Even she was surprised by her outburst as she had to hold down her hood and look down to prevent her eyes and mouth from being exposed.

“Y-Yes. The feudal lord prepared a special house for him and he’s been living here for ten years or so.”

The vendor had been surprised by the seemingly calm person sudden shout, but he managed to answer the question.

“Where would the elf researcher’s residents happen to be?”

Since that was what Ariane wanted to know the most I asked the vendor about it.

“Well, it’s right beside the lord’s mansion and is heavily guarded, so you can’t carelessly go there, you know?”

“What, I was just asking out of curiosity. Anyway, you wouldn’t happen to know the way to Lanbaltic, would you?”

The vendor looked doubtful when I asked about our original purpose, but after thinking it over for a bit he and called out to the older vendor.

“Old man, you said that you were a peddler in your youth right? You know anything?”

The old man with a stubby beard and looked in our direction as he smoked a pipe.

“To get to Lanbaltic from here you need to head west from the Hibotto wastelands. The Leving mountains should come into view west of the wasteland.”

The man spoke in a leisurely manner while he puffed smoke into the air. If he was telling

the truth, then we've taken the wrong path. The southwestern path at the fork in the road was probably the correct one.

We thanked the two vendors and left. I poured some of the roasted beans in my hand, causing Ponta to smoothly leap from my head and start stuffing her face.

"What do you want to do, Ariane-dono?"

When I looked back into Ariane's eyes I saw that she hesitated for a moment. She looked up to reply…… but I already know what she would say.

"I would like to meet with this elf researcher."

I nodded at the expected response.

It was said that the researcher was living under the protection of the lord, but elves were often the target of slavery in human society. So this situation seemed a little unbelievable.

Based on what the vendor said, it seems that the researcher was being held captive in this town.

Since the elf's house was located right beside the lord's mansion and that the people know of its existence we began to ask around a bit as we slowly approached the mansion

I heard that whenever the elf came to town for a bite to eat, he would be surrounded by a team of guards. They were probably a protective measure against outlandish individuals.

However, there were also stories of the elf researcher pacifying drunken adventures that acted violently.

At the center of the town, I was able to catch a glimpse of a spectacular rectangular building that was surrounded by a large wall.

The researcher was said to be living in a house on the feudal lord's property. There was a portcullis attached to the gate and four guards were standing outside to keep watch.

I doubted that we could easily break through the front, but I was also hesitating about trying to sneak in. This was a little different from our usual situation.

For the time being, let's just walk up to the gate.

The four guards were instantly alarmed when they saw us heading straight towards them. The guards moved into a semicircle formation and raised their spears against us to block our path. It would be impossible to not be suspicious of a knight that stood over two meters tall with a green fox on his head and a cloaked woman whose face was completely covered.

"Excuses me, we'd like to have a word with the elf that is said to live here……"

The guards' tension rise another notch when they heard me speak.

"No one is allowed to meet with Casey-dono without an appointment. You should leave right now."

The blunt response of the guard could be considered normal given the circumstances. I looked over my shoulder to Ariane to see what she'd do.

She apparently thought that talking would be a waste of time considering the way the discussion was going, and stepped in front of the guards placing her hands on her hood.

“I am a messenger from the Great Canada Forest and I wish to see Casey-dono!”

She threw off her hood and revealed her pointed ears, snow white hair and lilac skin. As she stared them down with her golden eyes framed by her sharp lashes, the four guards silently stood there with gaping mouths.

Another guard appeared from inside the building. His equipment was a bit better and he was in good shape considering his apparently advanced age. Raising his voice he started yelling at the guards to get them moving again.

“Oiii, you stupid lot! Go report this to the lord and Casey-dono!”

The guards finally regained their motor functions and two of them quickly set off to deliver the message, even tripping along the way.

“Please follow me while the lord is informed of your arrival.”

The elderly man, who seemed to be the captain of the guard, led us inside the walls and offered us a seat on the guard station’s sofa as we waited.

To pass the time while we wait I began to pour the lentils I bought into my hand for Ponta to eat with great relish.

Soon the messenger returned and offered the guard captain a salute before speaking.

“Casey-done is willing to meet with them!”

The captain nodded in response and the guard immediately left.

Somehow we were able to gain a meeting with the rumored elf researcher. But I couldn’t help but feel a little depressed seeing as I might have to interact with a feudal lord.

“I’ll lead the way.”

At the captain’s words, Ariane and I, along with two other guards, followed his lead.

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V3 Chapter 4

「Monster Researcher」Part 1

There was a building located on the side of the mansion's courtyard. After leaving the guard station, we entered a corridor that connected the buildings to one another. We were now in front of the two-story tall, box-shaped building. Though it looked small compared to the surrounding buildings, it was still slightly larger than the houses in town.

There was an elegantly designed door knocker attached to the simple wooden door, and when the captain knocked on it a man's voice was heard from within.

"It's open〜"

In contrast to Ariane's and my tension, the voice was rather relaxed and the captain paid it no mind as he opened the door.

"Excuse me."

The captain opened the door and stepped aside after accepting the invite, allowing Ariane to enter first. I followed suit and the two guards were right behind me.

Thick wooden pillars lined the sides of the first floor, the centerpiece of the room being a large table. There were chaise lounges and armchairs on both sides of the room. The fact that they were rarely used, coupled with the bare stone floor, resulted in a slightly bleak atmosphere.

Once he entered, the captain walked in front of the group and led us to a back room that was on the other side of the table.

The back room was an utter mess.

Multiple books, parchments, and rolled up scrolls were hastily piled atop the table in the center of the room. There were many bookshelves arranged along the wall, but they were already filled to the brim with more scrolls and books. The room's carpet was woven with beautiful patterns, but they were mostly covered by rocks and the fangs and tusk of various types of animals.

There was a large glass window at the back of the room and a man was sitting with his back to us at a crooked work desk.

"We've brought the messenger from Canada."

"Ahh, thank you."

The captain offered his salute to the man's back before turning around and leaving the room.

"I never imaged that a messenger from Canada would come for me〜, welcome to my humble abode."

The man stood up as he voiced his greeting.

His unkempt blonde hair was tinged green, he had the characteristic long ears of the elves, and his emerald green eyes could be seen from behind a pair of round glasses.

Instead of the traditional clothing of the elves, he had opted to wear similar clothes as the general public, but they were in shabby condition.

“I’m Ariane Glenys Maple. Nice to meet you……, Casey?”

“A warrior from Maple? Wonderful, I’m Casey Held, you can just call me Casey Araine-kun. How about you mister knight……Ohh!! A vento vulpix!!”

Casey’s eyes bulged in surprise when he heard Ariane’s name and he turned to ask me my name. However, when he saw Ponta sitting on my head, he rushed towards me and uttered an excited cry.

“My name is Arc, something of Ariane-done’s companion. This fluffy fox here is Ponta.”

“Ky〜un……”

With how much Casey honed in on her, I understood why Ponta edged back on my helmet.

“A travelling companion? Since elves never walk around in such armor, are you by any chance a human?”

I nodded in affirmation to the puzzled Casey. His puzzlement quickly changed to astonishment as he began to give all of us a proper once over.

“I have to say that this is a rare combination of individuals. Especially seeing a human that managed to tame a spirit beast.”

Casey extended his hand to Ponta with a smile on his face, however, she wrapped herself around my neck to escape. When he saw this Casey lowered his head in regret and forced out a feeble laugh.

“How nostalgic to see a tamed spirit beast…… Oh, where are my manners, please take a seat.”

When he noticed that we were still standing, Casey cleared a pile of items from a chair and urged us to sit. However, since there was only one chair, I let Ariane take it while I simply stood behind her.

“So is there really a message from my village?”

Casey sat in his own chair and pushed up his glasses with his middle finger as he asked his question. Judging from his tone he must have already grasp the situation to some extent.

“No, we are in the middle of rescuing our enslaved brethren from the humans. We were just passing through on our way to Lanbaltic when……”

“You heard that there was an elf living in this town and decided to check it out. Also, you two are heading the wrong way if you’re trying to reach Lanbaltic.”

When she nodded at his assessment Casey stated to laugh, causing Ariane to look back at me. I didn’t really have anything to say, but I had to do something.

“Casey-dono, you seem to be doing well for yourself in this human town.”

Ariane's gaze returned to the glasses wearing elf in front of her. Casey took a look around the room before he started speaking in a hearty tone.

"Has it already been ten years since I settled here? I left my village about forty years ago and I wandered from place to place concealing my identity. I think that this country is far better than the others I've been to."

"Ten years, huh… that's quite a long time to live here."

"It may seem that way to human, but for us it about the same as a year or two. I won't say that it's been that long…… also this is a convenient place to live in for my research, a variety of monsters appear around the Calcutta mountains in the east and beyond the Hiboto wastelands in the west."

He followed up his explanation by saying "Those areas aren't suitable to live in" while laughing a pushing up his glasses.

"Why do you live in a human town though?"

Ariane probably asked Casey the question she most wanted answered.

Even I could tell that she didn't have a lot of faith in humans, her contract with me was only for the sake of her mission. It wasn't hard to imagine her shock at finding an elf openly living under the protection of the humans in this town.

"I obviously hid my identity when I first came here. However, this town's feudal lord took an interest in my monster research…… My identity as an elf was revealed after I was invited the mansion and I've been allowed to live here as a special guest since. I offered them my findings on the ecology of this area's monsters and allowed them to publish a book based on it. Well I pretty much did the same thing back in my village."

When I looked around the room, I noticed the abundant amount of monster sketches, catalogs, and memos scattered about.

The books and documents that were packed into the book sheaves were probably all related to monsters as while.

I also noticed that Ariane was making a complicated expression.

"Currently I'm investigating the Sandworms that live in Hiboto, but since they live mostly underground it's hard to get a good view of them. Moreover, they are quite formidable enemies……"

As he was going on about his research Casey suddenly stopped talking and took a step towards Ariane before shouting.

"That's right! I was thinking of capturing a live Sand Worm, how about you help me? Surely a warrior from Maple will have enough skill to accompany me……"

"Umm, we still have our own mission to complete……"

Ariane quickly offered a vague refusal to Casey's enthusiastic request to help in monster hunting. Since it was a request from another elf, I'd thought that Ariane would hear him out, but I was left staring at her in surprise.

"……Warriors not only train their magic and swordsmanship, they also study monster

ecology for the sake of the village. Your books and research on monsters only teach humans how to fight them off.”

Her golden eyes were focused on Casey as she said that.

I could understand what she was trying to say with that comment. She was calling him an elf that valued humans above his own kind.

Casey smiled bitterly as he sunk back into his chair.

“The books on monster ecology that you studied were most likely made by me before I left my village.

“In that case, that’s all the more-”

“Sooner or later, someone will have to research the ecology of monsters. I believe it is my duty as an elf to fulfill this important role.”

Just as she was about to continue her argument, Casey looked Ariane in the eye and shot her down.

But I could understand his argument as well. Thanks to his research, the damage monsters inflicted on this town had been reduced, a feat that could only benefit the elves. If the human’s view on elves changed then it could only benefit the elves.

However, it was a long road ahead, considering that he had to live next to the feudal lord’s mansion and was constantly surrounded by guards.

“Like I said before, this country is better than other ones. The feudal lord’s treatment of me if proof of that. Canada and Rhoden are neighbors. In the future, we can either feud with one another or make peace with each other, and I for one choose to make peace.”

Casey paused for a moment to pushed his glasses before he started speaking again.

“The person behind you is a human right?”

Ariane face had a complicated expression as she looked at me over her shoulder.

I had told them I was human myself, so she couldn’t deny it. However, my current appearance was that of an undead, a person who is considered cursed in this world.

Once more I had this feeling that I had forgotten something important──

As I tried to think about this, I suddenly felt someone’s gaze on my face. Ariane’s beautiful golden eyes were prompting me to say something.

“Call it a form of divine guidance if you will. I will simply trust Ariane-dono’s judgment for now.”

We were only here because of my poor sense of direction, and Ariane had muttered something about ‘Spirit Divination’ and invited an unseen force to direct us… so I was able to ignore my own faults.

“You will be rewarded for your help. I don’t have much money, but maybe I can offer you some of my research instead? I can pay you with these two volumes of my monster research from when I left my village. I believe that those of my village should learn of the world beyond it, after all.”

Casey pulled out two thick books from his collection as she spoke. The books were bound in leather and had the illustration of a dragon etched into their covers. Below Said illustrations, the name「Casey Held」was written.

When he opened one of the books it revealed a abundance of carefully drawn monster illustrations, followed by things such as living habitats and the species' characteristics. I've loved picture books since I was a kid, so I was a little excited seeing these books.

"I can also offer you something not intended for human eyes, an encyclopedia of the various spirit beasts I've encountered. Unfortunately it isn't as detailed as my research on monsters. The difficulties in approaching spirit beasts has hindered any in-depth investigation……"

Casey smiled bitterly as he scratched head and held out another book. It wasn't as thick as the books on monsters and it was bound rather roughly.

Since he was concerned about the spirit beast, he probably choose to not share this with humans. There was a chance more cases like Ponta's might occur after all.

But as he said, it was bound to happen sooner or later.

"I understand, but we can't afford to waste too much time……"

Ariane looked directly at Casey as she said that in a firm tone.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 5

V3 Chapter 5

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Monster Researcher」Part 2

Casey lead us through the corridor that connected to the mansion. He nodded at the feudal lord's guards and servants as we passed them by. Occasionally a gaze would linger on the dark elf Ariane but they wouldn't stay long enough for it to be considered rude.

The large central building we found ourselves at was probably feudal lord's residence. When Casey said hello to the guards that stationed in front of the large main door, they silently opened the door.。

Casey thanked them as he passed through the door, but when I tried to follow him one of the guards blocked my way.

"I'm sorry, you have to leave your weapons here."

The 『Sword of the Lion King』and the two-handed 『Holy Thunder Sword』hung on Ariane's and my waist respectively. Seem like we wouldn't be able to carry our weapons into the feudal lord's residence.

I would feel a little uneasy with my weapon out of reach, but it wouldn't help even if I complained. I silently nodded and held my sheathed sword out to the guard. Ariane also offered her sword in the same manner.

The guard's admiration of my sword lasted until he tried to take it. When I let go of the sword, the guard immediately lost his balance and staggered.

"Ku! H-Heavy……"

The guard struggled to lift the sword that I could easily wield.

"Are you alright?"

"S-Sorry."

The sword lacked any feeling of weight when I used it, but it would be difficult for normal people to swing. I was able to relax a little when I had that thought. Even if someone had such a powerful weapon, they weren't much of a threat if they couldn't use it.

Since we had the guards' permission, we passed through the same door that Casey had. Ahead, we saw him talking to a female servant in the main hall.

"Casey-dono? How can I help you today?"

"Ah, is Sukitosu-kun in the usual room? I could use a good guide."

The woman briskly started walking up the main stairway to the second floor. When Ariane and I tried the keep pace as we followed, the woman's eyes bulged in surprise.

"Huh!? Casey-dono you have to say so beforehand when you have guests!"

Right before we followed Casey up the stairs, in her haste to greet us the women tripped on and started to fall right in front of us.

Ariane moved immediately. Without a sound, she approached the falling woman as caught her.

“Are you alright?”

“S-Sorry, honorable guest.”

When Ariane looked at the woman with her golden eyes, she blushed and quickly separated herself from Ariane.

“Casey-dono! Please wait!!”

In order to hide her embarrassment, the woman quickly ran up the stairs and called out for Casey.

“Brita-kun don’t be so mad.”

“Do you wanna take my scolding!?”

“Is Sukitosu-kun really gonna be upset over such a thing?”

“I’m gonna be scolded by the head maid!”

When we reached to top of the stairs, the woman name Brita caught up with Casey and was arguing with him. She was still blushing as she led the laughing Casey to his destination.

This scene must have been a common occurrence since the guards and servants they passed by wryly smiled at the two.

Ariane was slightly amused by the exchange as we followed behind the two of them.

“Hey, I’m coming in. Sukitosu-kun.”

In the depths of the mansion, Casey opened a remarkably beautiful door without knocking. It was the maid Brita that stepped in, while at her wits end, who said “Excuse us.” to the person inside.

Ariane and I share a look between each other and then back at those two before entering the room.

“You, I thought that you were entertaining an elven guest? Did you decide to come here when your talk was over……”

In this small rectangular room, there were bookcases displayed on both sides while the furniture was neatly arranged throughout the room. There was large glass window in the back with an ebony-colored worked carefully centered in front of it.

A man that was in the prime of his life was sitting at that desk and had been going over a document in his hand before he looked up at Casey and Brita’s entrance.

Casey had called the man in the prime of his life “Sukitosu-kun.” He was about 40 years old, his dark hair was cut short, and although he was dressed in fine clothing from what I could see, his upper body was highly toned. That combined with the stubble on his chin

made the man look more like a veteran adventurer than a noble.

Lord Sukitosu looked surprised when he saw Ariane and I enter the room before shaking his head and looking back at Casey.

“Actually, we have agreed upon securing the Sandworm sample I’ve been talking about.”

Sukitosu turned his head at the relaxed Casey’s laid back explanation.

“Didn’t you give up on that? Haven’t I already said that you’re trying to take the soldier too far from the town? Though the fields were expanded thanks to you, there aren’t enough people to spare. Even if you only need a few people I can only offer you three or four at most.”

Sukitosu signed and messaged the wrinkles on his forehead, but Casey simply called out to Ariane and me with a joyous expression.

“It all right! These two are willing to cooperate this time. The messenger from my village Ariane-dono and the one wearing the armor──”

“This is my personal guard, Arc.”

Ariane glanced in my direction after cutting into Casey’s introduction. I offered the two a small nod in response with that short introduction.

I wonder if she used that as an excuse for me to keep my helmet own. After all, there was little that could be said about the personal guard of an important elven messenger. I don’t know if the concept of diplomatic immunity existed in this world, but I’m not foolish enough to point that out.

However, the man in front of us didn’t seem to mind the small things.

“You’re not being coerced into this are you, Messenger-san?”

Sukitosu leaned back in his chair to look up at the ceiling and sighed, before turning his sympathetic eyes on us and asked that question.

“I didn’t coerce anybody, we performed a fair trade, didn’t we?”

While Casey was pleading his case, Brita deeply bowed her head in apology behind him.

“Well Sukitosu-kun, could you please loan me four people that can manage the bait?”

“You mean those goblins you’ve been saving…… I’ll lend you the men if you dispose of them. I’ve been getting complaints about the foul odor they give off for the last five days.”

Sukitosu made a dismissive gesture to Casey before looking in our direction and standing up.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you Ariane-dono. I am Sukitosu Du Buranbeina, this town’s feudal lord, but you can just call me Sukitosu. Since this is such an out of the way place, I ask that you excuse my bad manners.”

“I am Ariane Glenys Maple, and I don’t really mind.”

When Sukitosu offered his right hand, Ariane took it. There must have been something special about Ariane’s skin as Sukitosu looked down at their combined hand in surprise

before quickly looking away.

“Then…… I’ll prepare a seat at the table for tonig──”

“No thank you, since we don’t have a lot of time to spare, we’ll be leaving once we are done helping with this matter……”

Just as Sukitosu was offering us a seat at dinner, Ariane immediately declined the offer. Again, thanks to my condition, even if we attended the meal I would have had to stand behind Ariane the entire time.

“That so? There is no need for you to refuse…… but I suppose that a messenger is always busy. Thank you in advance for helping Casey-dono.”

Sukitosu tried not to scowl as he said that and put on a false smile while turning in Casey’s direction.

“Ah? Where did he go?

When Sukitosu couldn’t find Casey he frantically started to look around for him.

“He left some time ago in high spirits.”

“Again……”

Brita resigned herself to go looking for him, while Sukitosu apologetically looked towards Ariane.

As she stared at the feudal lord, Ariane slowly opened her mouth.

“Why would a feudal lord such as yourself take in an elf?”

For a moment, Sukitosu looked as if he didn’t know how to respond, but he immediately started to smile.

“He is a truly talented researcher. About ten years ago, the constant monster attacks had put this land on the brink of collapse. After he came and taught my guards the various characteristics of the monsters that inhabited the area, the town was able to become livable again. My territory’s people and I are truly grateful to him……”

I see, Casey had appeared in this place’s time of need and the two of them built up mutual trust from that point on.

Ariane must have realized that fact herself as she listened to the story without interruption.

When Ariane prepared to leave the room Sukitosu said “Come by anytime.” with a smile and a chuckle. Though the town wasn’t that large, its feudal lord left the impression of a good mayor in my mind.

When we retrieved our weapons at the entrance, we were told that Casey had asked us to be brought to a warehouse on the propriety.

There wasn’t anything particularly special about the building, it being nothing more than a bow with a small window. However, a horrid smell was spewing from the warehouse’s opened double door.

The smell became even worse as I looked inside and Ariane’s face unconsciously distorted

into a scowl. Ponta must not have minded the smell that much because she was wagging her tail as usual. There was only one wagon in this deserted warehouse, so naturally, the person looking over its contents noticed its use.

There were ten green-skinned dwarves laying in the wagon and they were all giving off the strong scent of decay.

“A horde of goblins were recently chased out of their territory by wyverns, so they tried to raid the city. I intend to use these corpses as bait for the Sandworm.

“Casey-dono, when will we hunt the Sandworm?”

Ariane had tears in her eyes and was holding her nose beside me as she asked her question.

“Sand Worms are nocturnal monsters, so I assume we can set off after lunch. Oh, do you guys have something to eat for lunch? There’s a pretty good place in town called Oak.”

When I turned back to Ariane I saw that she was holding her noses as she shocks her head no. Since I couldn’t eat in the open and I really didn’t feel like standing around that Oak place watching other people eat.

Casey looked a little disappointed at her answer before turning to me.

“No, I’ll decline as well.”

“Is that so? That’s too bad, the food is really delicious.”

Casey pouted a bit before looking back at the decomposing goblins and starting to put together as schedule in his head.

“Well then, how about you guys return here a little bit after noon? You can explore the town till then.”

We parted ways with Casey at that and headed back into town.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 6

V3 Chapter 6

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「The ones you're with」

All the townspeople were watching us as walked by. Ariane was currently walking down the street without her hood on and her face was completely exposed. Her well arranged features, her golden eyes and the lilac colored skin peeking through her cloak would naturally catch everyone's eyes

"It's so strange, for an elf to live openly in a town of untrustworthy humans……"

She looked at the town's residents while saying that. Once she put her gray hood on, the number of eyes watching us began to decrease.

"Ariane-dono, we should book a room at an inn for the night."

"Why? We can set out for Lanbaltic once we capture the Sandworm, right?"

Ariane looked puzzled as she said that.

"Let's say that it takes until midnight to capture the Sandworm, then we'd have to stay overnight, wouldn't we?"

"I see what you mean…… Also, sorry for my selfishness……"

She must have remembered our talk with Casey because she abruptly apologized.

"Ariane-dono, since you're my employer I have the duty to comply with your wishes as much as possible. Besides, the best part of a journey are the detours."

"……Thank you."

She offered me a small thanks as she turned away and headed towards the inn district at a brisk pace. I widened my stride to keep pace with her.

There weren't many inns to begin with, and most of the larger ones were occupied by the adventurers, so the two of us had to book a double room in a small inn for the night.

According to the owner of the inn the highway that passed this town didn't see much traffic, so it was rare for anyone other than adventurers who were searching for monster materials to visit.

After booking our room, Ariane and I toured the city until the sun rose to the middle of the sky.

This time, when Ariane and I were approaching the guards, they quietly allowed us to carry on. However, before we reached the gate, Casey opened it and immediately came out.

A large four-horse wagon was behind him, with one person in the coachman's seat and three other men in light armor following it. Everyone but Casey was covering their faces

with a cloth which made them look like robbers out of a western.

Dried grass had been piled atop the decomposing goblin corpses in an attempt to block their foul smell, but the smell was still leaking out and the guards scowled whenever it reached them.

“Yaa, let’s depart.”

Casey was the only one unaffected by the smell as he cheerfully started to lead the wagon along. After a brief talk with two city guards we left the town and headed towards the highway.

After reaching the highway, we turned north.. After a bit of traveling, we turned west and headed into the wasteland.

Casey had been teaching us about Sandworms throughout the entire journey. Sandworms apparently burrowed deep underground during the day and searched for food during the night. The reason we brought the goblin-corpses along was that they mostly ate dead flesh.

Their weak point was fire, but their skin was able to resist fire to a certain point. However, since we would risk burning the body of the specimen we were trying to collect, it had been decided to avoid using fire magic

“I know of Soilworms, can’t you simply cut off their heads to kill them?”

“Soilworms that live in the forest are about three meters long, but Sandworms are twenty meters long. Their

and their elasticity makes it near impossible to decapitate them, even with a good sword. On top of possessing amazing strength, they retreat into the ground the moment the detect danger, which makes it difficult to defeat them..”

Casey answered Ariane’s question with a troubled expression.

Still, a twenty-meter long worm is quite the monster. However, if they’re only as thick as an adult’s arm, I should be able to cut them with the 『Holy Thunder Sword』. I wonder if it’d be possible to test it out with another Sandworm after this.

After a while, the ground began to soften and Casey soon looked back and signaled for the wagon to stop advancing.

“Okay, this place is good enough. Let’s scatter the bait around the area, then hide the wagon in the shadow of a rock formation and wait in it until nightfall.

As he showed the men where to place the bait, I spotted a large rock formation bursting from the red colored, barren wasteland. No one would notice if a wagon and a group of people were hidden behind that large rock formation.

Following Casey’s instructions the guards used their spears to stab the goblins before carrying them to the designated locations. It was a task that made everybody scowl.

Once the bait was set, we moved behind the rocks and started to chat while waiting for nightfall. Ponta curled up on Ariane’s knees and it wasn’t long before I could hear her light snoring.

The guards took turns poking their heads out from behind the rocks while Casey was

writing down the description of a nearby growing plant on a piece of parchment

As the sun started to set, the shrubs that managed to grow in the discolored soil were dyed in an orange hue as far as the eye could see. The shadows of the rock formations began to stretch along the wasteland. While the temperature was gradually falling, Casey's tension only seem to rise. Even the guards were smiling wryly while Casey repeatedly poked his head out from behind the rock as he became more and more restless.

Eventually, a pair of flying monsters that we weren't here for started flying in our direction with the sun at their backs. They had figures that I recognized. With their bird-like head and four-meter-long wing span, there was no doubt these monsters were Sand Wyverns like those from this morning.

When the sound of their flapping wings could be heard, Ponta leaped from Ariane's knees and wrapped herself around Ariane's neck, who simply grinned in delight at the situation.

"Sand Wyverns have arrived. They don't usually consume dead flesh."

Casey was muttering something as she peeked from behind the rock to stare at the Wyverns that had land in the area with the bait.

The two Sand Wyverns slowly approached the unattended goblins and began to peck at it like birds. However, one of them quickly lifted its head and cautiously looked around before taking to the skies. The other one must have been crazy about the goblin as it tried to take another peck when something suddenly shot out of the ground. The Wyvern shouted as it was dragged underground.

As if that were the signal, other large figures began to burst from the ground one after another. Their skin was a mossy green with a darkish yellow mixed in, and four flaps pulled back to reveal their mouths, each lined with an uncountable amount of fangs. Wiggling around in search of their prey, we could see some sand blowing out of gill-like organs that were a short distance under their mouth and a myriad of centipede-like legs were lining their stomachs.

Though only a section of their bodies was above ground, they easily exceeded five meters as they approached the rotten goblins we had set as bait. There were five of them in total.

"Arya〜, I never imaged that so many of them would come out…… It would be completely suicidal to try challenging this many Sandworms.

Casey's voice was tinged with a hint of disappointment as he looked upon this spectacle.

"Aren't Sandworms suppose to eat dead flesh? They had no hesitations preying on the Wyvern."

"I said they usually ate corpses, I never said they didn't eat living beings."

Casey focused on the Sandworms as he answered one of the guard's question. If that's the case then couldn't humans be their prey as well?

I could probably kill this many if I used magic, but I wondered if it was alright to take such conspicuous actions here.

Since there were five large Sandworms, there obviously weren't enough goblins to go around, so one of them was driven away from the bait.

The one that had been driven away suddenly noticed something and turned it’s head in our direction. It drove its head back underground before the earth began to part, indicating that it was heading towards us.

“Uhyua!!”

One of the guards screamed in terror as he saw the approaching worm and started to run toward the highway.

As if it had a periscope underground, the worm changed direction and started to chase after the guard that ran.

“Che, as if!”

I shot out from behind the formation in the same way and recklessly chased after the guard with my strong legs. By the time I caught up to him, the Sandworm had a emerged from the ground with its fangs out, ready to consume its prey. Without enough time to draw my sword, I tackled the large Sandworm head on.

I grabbed hold of the Sandworm’s around its gills and stopped its charge with pure strength. It immediately started trying to wiggle out of my hold while it’s mouth hung open like an alien egg. I could hear a harsh “GICHICHI” as the beast twisted its large body in an attempt to break free of my hold, forcing me to increase the strength I used accordingly.

“Hilllll!!”

The guard was unable to stand and quickly started to scuttle back on his butt. I could see traces of wetness between his crotch. I wonder if this monster has some kind of heightened sense of smell.

The Sandworm arched its body in an attempt to sink back underground and once again writhed in my arms. This twenty-meter long monster had a considerable amount of power, I had to crouch down in a desperate attempt to keep the worm’s head above ground.

“Hahhhhhh!!!”

If the Sandworm dove underground then it would be on its home-field. I took the initiative and started to pull the worm out of the ground like a radish. However, the opponent desperately tried to avoid certain death and engaged me in tug-a-war. The large body of the Sandworm gradually started to pile into a wiggling mass as I pulled it out of the ground.

The Sandworm flailed about as opened its mouth in an attempt to bite at my chest. I immobilized the Sandworms body by holding it down with my foot and tightened my grip into a sleeper hold.

“Arc!”

Ariane rushed towards Sandworm and was waiting for her chance to strike with her sword in hand.

“It’s alright, Ariane-dono! Everything’s going great!”

I informed Ariane of my safety to prevent her from dealing a fatal blow to the Sandworm

while applying more pressure to the hold. Before long the Sandworm began to feebly convulse as I applied a sleeper hold from a better posture.

The movements of the struggling upper and lower halves dimmed just like the remaining light in the wastelands as the chokehold started to take effect.

“No way, no way, no way… it’s impossible for a person to strangle a Sandworm with their bare hands……”

Casey said that as he and the rest of the guard approached. While keeping an eye on the behemoth on the ground, the group walked towards me. As the remaining guards ran up and were at a loss for words as they stared at me in a wide circle.

A pointless discussion began in my head about how counterproductive it was to avoid using flashy magic in an attempt to be inconspicuous, only to defeat a monster with superhuman strength. No, it might already be too late for being inconspicuous.

I stood up while brushing off the dust from my cloak and armor, trying to act as if nothing happened.

Looking back at the area we had placed the bait, I saw that the Sand Worms and goblins were already gone, leaving only a barren wasteland behind.

“Casey-dono, I assume that the sample collection is complete?”

When I looked back at the worm at my feet, Casey was already moving around and prodding the large creature.

“It’s sufficient! I never expected to be able to collect such a beautiful specimen.”

Casey was brimming with joy as he spoke in a slightly exciting tone.

“Casey-dono, the sun will be setting soon. If we don’t move the specimen immediately will run the risk of being attacked by Sand Wyverns.”

One of the guards was voicing their concerns to Casey after looking at the sky. The guard who had been chased was being helped by another guard.

The sun was already hidden behind the mountain range in the distance and sky was already a dark indigo color.

“Is that so, I had assumed that we would have to camp out, but things were wrapped up rather quickly.”

Following Casey’s instructions, the Sand Worm was loaded onto the wagon. One the worm’s large body was loaded up we set off immediately.

“Recently a group of Sand Wyverns has been appearing around town.”

On the way back to Buranbeina, Casey informed us of that fact as the guards walking beside the wagon nervously surveyed the sky.

“We encountered a few of them on our way to Buranbeina. They flow off after we struck a couple of them down.”

“Is that true!? Could you tell me where they are, so that Sukitosu-kun can send a team to recover them?”

Since Ariane and I had no particular use for them, we nodded and gave him the location of the bodies.

Before long we neared the hill that Buranbeina was built upon. The guards' tension began to ease once we were in the reach of the city lights. The town gates had already been closed, but with Casey walked before the guards on duty it was opened once again.

"Casey-done, we'll take our leave here."

After entering the town, I called out to him in the town square. Casey looked back at us before grabbing a cloth bundle from the wagon and walked back to us.

"Today was a wonderful day. Here are the books I promised as a reward. I'm grateful that they will be useful to those of my village. Hopefully, these will inspire some of our brethren to look beyond the village."

He handed Ariane the bundle and held out his right hand. She stretched out her own hand and shook his.

"Thank you very much. You should be more selective of the people you allow to read these."

Hearing Ariane's words, Casey just smiled and waved a friendly farewell before following the wagon to the feudal lord's mansion.

"I guess we should get some rest……"

"……Alright."

After watching Casey's back disappear, we turned around and headed towards our inn.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 7

V3 Chapter 7

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Harbor City Lanbaltic」Part 1

Making full use of 【Dimensional Step】, Ariane and I left Buranbeina early the next morning and returned to the fork in the road.

Under the sunny sky, Ponta was chasing butterflies around the rocks at the center of the fork in the road.

Ariane was sitting on a boulder of to the side and drinking water from her canteen.

I was sitting on the ground waving a foxtail grass blade around, failing to catch Ponta's attention as she wagged her tail and avoided eye contact.

Unable to heal my loneliness, I turned my eyes to the gentle hills that opened up before me.

Far west of the hilly landscape, the ridgeline of the Leving mountains continued from the northern and southern horizons.

Our next destination, Lanbaltic, was just beyond that mountain range. Based off of what we heard in Buranbeina, we'd have to travel around the southernmost tip of the mountains to reach the city. From this vantage point, I should easily be able to cover the distance with transfer magic, but the problem was that the monsters roaming the area, the high amount of pedestrian traffic, and the villages along the way made doing so rather difficult. I sighed unintentionally as I stared out at the surrounding area.

"We should set off soon."

"Yeah."

Ariane agreed with my opinion as she stood up. Ponta, seeming to realize what was happening and used her magic to fly from the rock she was on to the top of my head. Facing forward I put my luggage sack over my shoulder and began to walk.

I headed down the southwestern path this time. Confirming that there was no one around, I invoked 【Dimensional Step】. Occasionally we would come across some people on the highway so I had to transfer to another location. We traveled like this for quite some time and it wasn't long before night fell.

Silence had fallen over the hilly landscape and the Leving mountains looked larger at their base than when I gazed at them from our previous vantage point. I couldn't even see the setting sun since it was blocked by the northern region of the mountain range.

We decided to rest for the night and visited the inn of a small town that was built next to a forest.

Unfortunately, the next day's the sky was full of dark clouds.

After leaving the town and following the western highway early in the morning, the hilly surroundings were eventually replaced by an ocean view. Although it had taken a rather gloomy appearance thanks to the cloudy sky, my feelings brightened up a little.

“We’ve finally reached the ocean.”

I put my hands on my waist and took a deep breath. Ponta used her magic to fly from the top of my head to a hill that overlooked the sea.

“This is the first time I’ve seen the ocean from this side.”

Ariane smiled as she removed her hood, letting her silver hair blow in the wind, and spoke in an emotional tone.

“We have to head north along the coast from here.”

I turned away from the sea to look in the northern direction.

Even though I didn’t know how much further north we had to go, at our pace we should’ve been able to reach Lanbaltic by the afternoon. The problem was that because of the people and the coastal villages and towns along the highway, I couldn’t recklessly use 【Dimensional Step】 here.

Moving away from the highway, I began to use 【Dimensional Step】, checking to make sure the coast was clear each time. Our speed fell as a result, but it was still faster than walking would have been.

Apparently by trying to avoid being seen, you increase the probability of encountering those you didn’t want see you.

At one point the northern highway dipped into a slight incline in between a set of hills, and at the center of the incline, a group of people was gathered. Wait, it was a handful of people surrounded by another group of people and every one of them had their weapons drawn.

The ones surrounded were a group of five seemingly young adventurers, who were all wearing cheap leather armor and carrying a sword and shield.

One the other hand, the ten men that surrounded them were dressed in various garbs from leather armor and cloaks to old rags and they held their weapons as if they were waiting for the right moment to attack. They were looking like mercenaries or thieves, but it was hard to tell.

Based on their demeanor and attitude, the five adventurers were novices and the group that surrounded them were veterans. One of the bandits had a slight smile on his face as he appraised the equipment.

Ariane’s golden eyes peeked out from beneath her hood and asked me a question with her glaze.

We could completely ignore this situation or get involved.

We could transfer to the next hill from here and carry on, and I’m certain I’d feel very little about this situation as we continued on. Why is it that I leap in to help women and children who are under attack, but consider the prospect of helping shabby men a hassle?

Silver:(Because you are a Japanese WN protagonist Arc.)

Thinking it over a bit, I came to the conclusion that we should avoid getting too deeply involved with the situation since we had no idea what the circumstances were. I gently grabbed Ponta be the scruff of her neck and handed her to Ariane.

When Ariane caught Ponta in her arms she twirl before happily stroking the smiling Ponta's head and throat.

I put down my luggage and cleared my throat before speaking in a relatively calm tone.

"Harrumph, a〜〜. I'll be back in a bit."

After saying so I ran down the hill and lightly called out to both of the groups that had yet to notice me.

"Hey, I'm sorry but could you give me directions〜?"

My careless and inappropriate comment caused the tension to rise even further. Everyone eye focused on me before one of the members of the larger group shouted.

"Damn! Looks like these bastards got reinforcements!!"

Apparently they've decided to count us as one of their targets because we cut into a rather tense situation.

At the man's shout, two people from the surrounding group brandished their weapons as they rushed me. The swords they had seemed to be mediocre and blunt versions of the those sold in a weapon shop.

To prove my assumption, I caught their attacks without drawing my sword or shield and I didn't even feel an itch. As expected of the mythical grade 『Belen's Saint Armor』, weapons of this level wouldn't be able to put a scratch in it.

"What the…!? This guy is wearing full body armor!"

The men with the swords were surprised that their attacks were brushed off and one of them angrily shouted when he saw my armor peeking through my cloak.

Hearing that, the other man sneaked up to my outstretched arm in an attempt to lunge at the gap in my armor. I caught the blade of the sword with my outstretched hand and used pure strength to shatter it.

"Aa━!! My sword━!!"

The man had a grim expression on his face as he cried about his broken sword, but his eyes rolled back into his head after I hammered a punch to his jaw and he started to fall.

"Shit!!"

The other man cursed as he took a leap forward and lunged his sword towards the gap between the helmet and chest section of my armor. I simply took the attack before grabbing the man by the collar and head-butted him, helmet and all.

The was a dull sound as the man's nose started broke and started to bleed. He dropped his sword and fell to the ground groaning.

“I wanted to settle this a little bit more gently……”

I muttered that as I looked upon the two fallen men.

When I looked at the surrounded adventures, I saw that they were in a circular formation with their backs to one another as they managed to fend of their attackers using, even though they were under constant assault.

Even though they were rather young, they seemed quite capable.

The men from the larger group were starting to show signs of impatience as the fight was more difficult than they anticipated. In the midst of this chicken race, I called out in an attempt to shake things up again.

“Excuse me, my opponents appear to be tired, can I have some new ones?”

Once again everyone’s attention was focused on me

My question caused the members of the bandit group to hesitate and look around. As if we were under some kind of agreement, the young adventurers used the opening to go on the offensive.

One bandit dropped his sword after his fingers were sliced off while another was rendered unconscious by a shield bash to the face. One was even forced to step back after one of his eyes was cut out.

Out of the remaining eight people, two were unable to continue and one had lost the will to fight. Once they lost their numerical advantage the bandits started to disperse.

However, the young adventures didn’t waste their chance and immediately targeted their opponents to struck them down. After the five of them were done, there was still one man who was running away with his tail between his legs. Apparently he had been lucky enough to have not been marked by anyone.

“However, someone has already snuck around.”[1]

I stood in front of the man with my knees slightly bent and my arms stretched out as I repeated a certain line I’d heard somewhere before.

The man stopped in his tracks as he looked up in irritation at the two-meter tall knight, me, that had suddenly appeared in front of him.

The man didn’t give up and tried to flee in another direction, but I quickly moved in front of him again.

“However, someone has already snuck around.”

I repeated the line mechanically after blocking his path.

The man’s expression shifted from irritation to grim determination. It was understandable considering the circumstances of facing an enemy one couldn’t run away from.

When faced with a situation like this, one had to make a decision: you either resign yourself to your fate, or you choose to fight the enemy.

The man in front of me choose to fight.

“Dokeeeeeeyoooo!!”

He recklessly swung his weapon straight at me. It was a desperate sink or swim move. However, I simply dodge the attack and knocked the man out with a quick jab to the chin.

When I turned back to the area with the young adventurer I saw that the last bandit had already thrown down his weapon.

The young adventurers began tying up the defeated bandits with some ropes they had, while the last bandit stared at me with enmity. One of the youths approached me and knelt before me with his head down.

“Knight-sama we appreciate your help. Thanks to you, we were able to safely capture these bandits.”

The youth offered me his gratitude in that position. So the group from before really had been bandits.

“I’m just an adventurer. There’s no need to humble yourself.”

When I said that, the young man looked like he couldn’t believe it as he slid his eyes over the armor that managed to peek out from under my cloak before he looked back at Ariane standing at the top of the hill. Having gained some sort of understanding the man nodded before standing up.

“That was rude of me, I apologize. Sorry for the late introduction, but my name is Axel and I’m the leader of this party. I appreciate your help.”

He must have thought we were nobles traveling incognito or something, since he was speaking in an exaggerated tone. Nevertheless, he was still polite. He may have been young, but he was rather educated.

“Once again, we’re grateful for your help, but would you be willing to leave the ones you caught with us? I’ll properly compensate you, of course.”

The man looked back at his friends who were in the middle of tying up the other bandits after he bowed his head to me.

“We just happened to come along by chance, there’s no need to go out of your way.”

“Are you sure about that? If we take these bandits to Lanbaltic, the Nozan slave traders will pay a reasonable price for them, you know?”

Axel tilts his head in puzzlement of my answer.

It appears that apart from elves and beastmen, criminals were the next highest candidates for enslavement. Were the next ones on the block those with outstanding debts?

When we had assaulted the Etsuato company in Rhoden’s capital I had freed some human slaves to distract the guards, but there could have been brutal criminals among them.

Reflecting on my actions, I may have been a little impulsive with my actions back then.

“Hum, will this Nozan slave dealer buy all of the bandits?”

“No, Nozan is the name of the country on the other side of the Burugo gulf. Slave dealers from that country come to Lanbaltic to buy criminals by the shipload.”

Axel pointed to the sea as he explained the situation with the Nozan kingdom.

Even if criminal slaves are brought in large quantities, I doubted they would be working in the homes of people. After all, they wouldn’t hesitate baring their fangs at their owners, so they’ll most likely be put to work for the community as forced labors for a feudal lord’s land development.

“In that case, we’ll have to decline then.”

I declined Alex’s offer again and offered my goodbyes.

“Thank you very much!”

I waved my hand back at them for a while before climbing the hill back to where Ariane was playing with Ponta.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 8

V3 Chapter 8

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Harbor City Lanbaltic」Part 2

“Sorry for the wait, Ariane-dono. Let us resume our journey.”

When Ariane noticed me coming towards her, she immediately stopped rubbing her face against Ponta’s.

“Bandits?”

「どうもそうらしい」
“That was the case.”

Picking my luggage sack off the ground, I gave Ariane a brief answer as we continued to Lanbaltic.

Looking at the sky, I saw that it had been growing dimmer and cloudier than it had been a while ago.

“It might rain soon……”

“Yeah, we’d better look for an inn when we reach Lanbaltic.”

When I expressed my concerns about the sky, Ariane looked up as well and agreed.

After moving quickly for a while, I invoked 【Dimensional Step】 until we advanced beyond several hills and came across one that overlooked a large city.

The city was spread along the coastal shore and surrounded by a large double canal waterway that led into the sea. The canal’s width varied in places and anything from rowboats to fishing ships could be seen traveling along it. The five-meter-high city wall built around the city wasn’t that tall compared to those of other cities, though.

From here, I could see several ships that were anchored in the large harbor that had been built on the coast. I could tell that the sea trade was the lifeblood of this city, but there wasn’t any sight of any large ships, only small- and medium-sized ones.

Sandwiched between the green fields and blue ocean were the contrasting chestnut brown rooftops of Lanbaltic’s cityscape. Unfortunately, the bad weather had drained the cityscape and scenery of its initial vitality.

We passed by a multitude of people and goods entering and leaving the city as we approached.

We soon stood in line for the city’s northern gate. The passage over the stone bridge was rather slow as we had to cross the great canal before we could pay the entrance tax.

The noise of people going about their business rose as a strong wind blew more clouds over the sky. The city was still relatively bright beyond the wall, although it was a little

chaotic. Multiple alleyways were set up within close proximity of each other and many people dressed in rags could be seen sitting in on the ground of those alleys. The atmosphere here wasn't that great despite the peace and order, as the extreme gap between rich and the poor could be seen everywhere.

As we walked along the main road, a large structure at the center of the town came into view. Many street stalls lined the interior of the structure and there were people constantly entering and leaving through the large door. I could even see customers buying and comparing goods at the stalls that lined the building.

This kind of permanent establishment reminded me of a department store. It was a type of open market I haven't come across before, one that was easier for me to deal with.

The smell of various foods blended into one another, making Ponta struggle in Ariane arms when she caught a whiff of it.

"How about we grab something from over there."

Ariane nodded in agreement after I made the suggestion and pointed out a nearby shop.

There was a stout middle-aged man that ran the shop while acting as a barker. He seemed to be selling a juice squeezed from an orange-like fruit. However, the juice was a red color.

"Excuse me, two please."

"Thank you for your patronage! That'd be two sek."

The shopkeeper floated a smile as he picked up a sack of fruit and took out a juicer.

"Two silvers? That's really expensive."

"No, Knight-sama. The price is halved if you return the cup."

After slicing the fruit and putting the halves through the juicer, he poured the juice into a wooden cup.

It appears that the container was included in the price.

"I have a small question, would you happen to know where the lord's residence is?"

"The Lord's? If you take the street in front of this market, it should be across the first channel."

The vendor put straws in the cups of juice and held them out. I paid the two silvers and took the drinks.

"Does your business at the feudal lord's mansion have anything to do with his rumored bride?"

"Rumored bride?"

When I tilted my head after receiving the drinks the vendor was shocked.

"Eh? I thought you came to meet the elven princess that the feudal lord married……"

Ariane and I simultaneously glanced at each other when we heard the vendor's answer. As expected, her eyes bulged in surprise. Her movement almost caused her hood to fall off

but she quickly fixed it.

“Vender, we’d like to hear the full details.”

“Eh, yes. About a month ago, the feudal lord announced the ceremony to the neighboring lords. I caught a glimpse of her riding a carriage at the event in question, she was rather beautiful.”

The vendor folded his arms and looked out in the distance as if he were seeing that day unfold all the while vigorously nodding his head.

“Was there anything around her neck? Something metal……”

Ariane stepped forward and question the vendor absorbed in his own emotions. She was asking about the 『Magic-Eating Collar』. It was a magic tool that made it impossible for the wearer to use magic. It was an essential device used to enslave elves as it greatly hinders the combat abilities of the magically gifted elves.

“No, she didn’t wear such a thing, did she? She did wear a luxurious hair ornament, though.”

The vendor twisted his head as he tried to remember the details as he talked. Ariane started at the vendor in wide-eyed disbelief, as if what she heard was impossible, but it wasn’t that strange to me.

If she had worn such a boorish metal collar in front of the neighboring lords and townspeople, it would have drawn too much suspicion during the whole event. Either the lord had other means of threatening her, or the elf woman agreed to the marriage out of her own volition.

“Would the name of the feudal lord that married her happen to be Londes De Lanbaltic?”

That was the name that was listed on the elf slave contracts taken from the slavering after all.

However, the vendor gave an unexpected answer.

“No, that was the former lord’s name. It is his son Petros that she married.”

“The lord changed?”

“Yes, about a month ago.”

Ariane and I shared another look with each other when we heard that answer.

A short time later, in a small corner of the marketplace.

I handed Ariane one of the cups of juice that I had been holding. She remained silent as she took it and brought the straw to her lips.

I copied her actions and drank the juice after putting the straw through one of the slits in my visor. Although it was lukewarm, the juice’s acidity and taste closely resembled orange juice, even though the juice was a bright red color and the acidity was rather high.

The fact that I could drink it through a straw with my armor on was convenient.

“Do you think that story was true?”

Ariane was the first to stop drinking her juice and started to talk. In her arms, Ponta was desperately trying to reach Ariane’s cup, but she was completely stuck in Ariane’s tight hug.

We had gone around asking people about the marriage the vendor had talked about, but everyone we asked had given us a similar story.

“The one that seemed to have bought the elf was the previous lord, and said elf is the current lord’s wife.”

I muttered a summarized version of the story and what we know.

The question was if the marriage was a forced one or a willing one. That was our current dilemma.

“It is illegal to enslave elves in this country, so I doubt anyone would have a wedding in plain view of the neighboring lords and townspeople if they were breaking that law……”

If we assume the possibility of coercion…

“Can the 『Magic-Eating Collar』 be attached to the ankle and still have the same effect?”

Even if it’s a collar, if it can function like that there’d be no need to place it around the neck. If an anklet version of the collar could be made, then it could be worn without drawing any attention. Doing so would allow the lord to officially take the woman as his wife and there wouldn’t be anything the country could say about it.

However, Ariane’s next statement denied that possibility.

“When the collar is attached to the ankle it doesn’t work.”

“H〜um, then the possibility of coercion decreases.”

Ariane looked like she wanted to respond to my statement but she silently took another sip of juice. Confusion was visible in her eyes, but that couldn’t be helped.

Anyone would be confused if they were chasing a kidnapper, only to discover that the person kidnapped was marrying her captor’s son.

Even if the two of us were to sit here and try to figure it out, it’d only be a waste of time. In the end, we needed to hear the story directly from the people involved.

That left us with two options.

We could use the regular method of sneaking into the lord’s residence and speak with the captured elf directly. Or we could take the direct approach and ask for a meeting with the wife.

Just like before, if the marriage had been properly initiated, there would be no way for the lord to turn away a messenger from an elf village. Whichever option we choose would be mutually exclusive with the other one.

“What should we do, Ariane-done?”

I outlined the two options to Ariane and asked for her to choose.

She closed her eyes and contemplated our future actions. I am sure that not so long ago she would've chosen the former option without any care for the consequences, but right now she was actually considering the latter option. Maybe meeting Casey the other day left an impression on her.

Despite being an elf, Casey lived in a human town and many humans had accepted him there. That had given her a rather large shock.

Eventually, her eyes opened and she started to speak in a steady voice.

"We will act as messengers and ask for a meeting at the feudal lord's residence."

"Then I will assume the role of Ariane-dono's bodyguard like before."

The corners of her mouth lifted a little after I said that.

When she finished her drink I took her cup so we could return them to the stall. However, a loud shout managed to be heard over the hustle and bustle of the market.

Turning in that direction I saw a middle-aged man arguing with a pair of parents and children. As if to avoid the unnecessary trouble, the people in the area briskly walked away from the situation.

"You dare to try and steal from me!"

"You're wrong! My daughter was only trying to return something that fell down, she would never steal……!"

"Annoying! That's nothing but a refugee's excuse!!"

The middle-aged vegetable vendor's spit flow everywhere as he yelled at the family. A woman, who I assumed to be the mother, was holding a small boy as she grabbed the girl who was being yelled at.

The parent and children were a little on the thin side and looking somewhat grimy. As the vendor continued to shout, the boy and girl cried, while she lowered her head in apology. The swollen red cheek of the little girl made it obvious that she had been slapped.

I was unable to remain silent after seeing that.

"Was it necessary to hit the girl that hard?"

"Annoying! Whoever said that step forward──!?"

The vendor's face had been a deep crimson when he'd been yelling, but he turned pale and started trembling when he saw me. If I had to compare it to anything, his complexion was like litmus paper.

My hands were on my waist so that my armor was on full display as I approached the arguing people. Ariane let out an audible sigh behind me.

"N-No it's not what it looks like…… Knight-sama. That kid stole some of my goods──"

His eyes swam in confusion before he glared at the girl at the edge of his vision.

"How much was the thing she stole?"

I deliberately asked him that question in a threatening tone so that he would focus on me.

“Hu-Hum……”

“How much was it?”

I asked the question again in a lower more menacing tone causing the vendor to be at a loss for words.

“……No-nothing was stolen……”

When the truth was squeezed out of him, the vendor quickly went to hide behind his stall. When I reflected on the coercive exchange, I realized I didn’t regret it.

I squatted down to match the crying girl’s line of sight and held out my hand as I prepared to cast magic.

“【Heal】”

Soft lights flew from my hand and burst when they made contacted with the girl’s swollen cheek. The girl stopped crying as she stared blankly at the magic lights.

“Th-Tha-Thank you, knight-sama.”

The girl’s mother offered her thanks and apology while the boy just seemed amused. I offered the mother a brief nod before turning back to the girl and offering a cup to each of them

“I’m giving these to you and your daughter personally. The vendor over there will pay for them if you take them to him.”

I pointed to the vendor we got the juice from, who I saw giving me a wry smile.

The girl looked at the cup in her hand and her mother in confusion, while mother offered her thanks yet again before she took the girl and the cups over the juice stall.

“Arc, I think we’d better find ourselves a good inn.”

Ariane spoke up from behind me as I saw the family off. I saw that the cobblestone road was getting wet and I noticed the raindrops falling when I looked up.

Rain started to fall from the low hanging thick clouds. The people were also walking by at a quick pace.

I sighed at the fact that we would have to put off going to the feudal lord’s residence in favor of finding an inn, despite the fact that we spent all that time trying to reach Lanbaltic.

“You’re right, I guess we need to find an inn before the rain gets any worse.”

Ariane and I walked to the inn district in the light rain and finally managed to find an inn right before nightfall.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 9

V3 Chapter 9

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax
「The Elven Bride」Part 1

When the new day arrived, the dim clouds from yesterday had been completely blown away. The smell of the tide and the peculiar scent of the harbor were carried along the wind.

Opening the inn's window shutters, I could hear the sounds of the city outside. The sun had been up for a while now.

After doing a bit of calisthenics to loosen up my stiff body, I folded up my black cloak and placed it into my luggage sack. Since this job required me to act as Ariane's guardian I decided not to wear it. I'd be attracting more attention but there was no help for it.

Ponta had already woken up and was looking at me in confusion.

"Well, let's see if we can get a proper meeting. Ready to go, Ponta?"

"Kyun!"

Ponta replied as she used wind magic to lightly to leap from the bed and fly to her usual spot on my helmet.

I had intended to call out for Ariane, who was in the room next door, but we managed to step into the hall simultaneously.

"Good morning, Arc. You're a little more noticeable than usual."

"That's because today, I'm Ariane-dono's guard."

After exchanging our morning greetings the two of us left the inn.

Since I asked around yesterday, our inn was located closer to the center of town rather than the southern gate we came through. I wasn't long after we left the inn that we reached the first waterway. The road continued south parallel to the waterway, and after crossing the bridge we entered the old town district.

Unlike the newer districts sandwiched between the first and second waterways, the houses of the old town district had been weathered by decades of history. The houses were also larger than those of the other districts and the streets were more spacious as while.

Eventually, the street we walked on went on an uphill incline, a large rampart, and gate could be seen at the end of the road. Behind the wall and rampart, a tall castle spread out before my eyes. In front of the gate stood a row of seasoned guards that were glaring at anyone in the area.

As we approached the gate, I began walking in front of Ariane as the guards corrected their posture and shifted to high alert.

"Excuse me, but I'd like to request a meeting with the woman that became lord Petro's

wife.”

One of the guards stepped forward and evaluated us from top to bottom before his eye stopped on my helmet. Seeing the doubt in his eyes reminded me of who was openly sitting on my head. While I had a passing thought of taking Ponta off my head, the guard gave us a dubious look as he asked for our identities.

“Sorry, but who are you people?”

“We are messengers from the Great Canada Forest. Again, I request a meeting with the lord’s bride.”

The guard we’d been talking to tilted his head in confusion at our introduction and raised an eyebrow as he opened his mouth to speak. However, before he could say anything, another guard ran up from beside the gate and whispered something in his ear.

“If you’re an elf as you say, remove your helmet and prove it.”

The person that had whispered into the guard’s ear glared at me. Ariane, who had been watching this exchange from the rear stepped forward and lowered her cloak’s hood.

Her silver hair shined under the sun’s rays and a stray gust of wind caused it to dance in the breeze. The guards held their breath as they gazed at her smooth lilac skin, golden eyes, and pointed ears. It wasn’t only the guards that were shocked, because those who had been watching the exchange voiced a simultaneous gasp.

“I am Ariane Glenys Maple, a messenger from the Great Canada Forest. I request a meeting with the lord’s wife.”

Her blunt self-introduction left the entire street in a state of shock. The guards stared at one another, wondering what they should do, before one of them rebooted their brain and started giving out orders.

“Report this to the lord!”

“Y-Yes!”

One of the guards acted as the messenger and ran through a small door next to the gate. I could only shrug my shoulders as I watched the series of exchanges unfold.

Ariane looked at the state of the guards for a bit before putting her hood back on and stepping back.

While the messenger ran to the lord, I turned back to the guards and wondered if they’d have us wait in front of the gate. Even though were called ourselves messengers, it was true that were came unannounced, so all I could do was sigh in my heart and wait.

After a while, a command was given on the other side of the gate and soon after the sound of the rampart rising could be heard. The guard that had acted as messenger saluted us when he returned and presented the reply.

“Lord Petro is willing to meet you with you!”

The guards moved to the left and right sides of the gate to open the way.

Though I was the one that proposed the idea, I never expected we’d get a meeting with the

feudal lord so easily. Perhaps Ariane's presence alone held great persuasive power, considering that elves rarely appeared in human cities.

An older gentleman came from within the gate and offered us a respectful bow. When he raised his head he looked both of us over before politely asking me a question.

"Are you the guard perhaps?"

When I nodded at this, the gentlemen nodded in return and urged us to enter. I turned to Ariane and signaled for her to pass through the gate first while I brought up the rear.

We followed the gentlemen through a large courtyard and entered the towering castle's atrium. The floors were made of polished marble and a mural was etched into the walls. A large decorative chandelier hung in the center of the room that was lined with gorgeously sculpted pillars.

There were stairways to the second floor on both sides of the room.

Smaller versions of the courtyard we had passed through could be viewed from the second-floor windows before the hall continued farther into the castle. We were led to an absurdly large room and told by the gentlemen to wait here while he brought his master.

The furniture was rather luxurious and arranged in an elegant way that reflected the owner's social status. The gap in financial standing between Buranbeina's mansion and this castle is palpable.

I moved to stand behind a sitting Ariane with my arms fold over my chest. I always had the image of diplomats being rather bossy, but could I be wrong?

While I thought about fixing my posture, a man and woman came through a back door and rigidly stood in front of us. The older gentleman was back as well.

The man who entered was probably the feudal lord. He had a European appearance and was laughing wryly as he brushed his blonde bangs away from his blue eyes. He had a strangely white smile that gleamed in the light and the slightly pretentious aura he gave off made him seem more like an actor than a feudal lord.

When the man tried to walk forward, he stopped and flashily turned around.

Why did he turn around?

While doubts began running through my mind, he turned back around and managed to choke out an introduction.

"Did you have to wait long? I'm this region's feudal lord, Petros De Lanbaltic. I'm twenty years old and recently married!"

The man who introduced himself as Lord Petros opened up like a blooming flower, smiling brilliantly and spreading out his arms. He had an atmosphere like a prince from a shoujo manga. Basically everything about him made the introduction rather strange.

When Petros stepped in front of the dumbfounded Ariane, he kneeled before her and took her hand.

"Well well, to think that the messenger would be this beautiful. Welcome to our castle……"

The women who had entered alongside Petros interrupted our warm welcome with a dry cough. She wore a long, light green evening dress and she had the elven characteristics of long ears, blonde hair with a green tint, and green eyes. Her tall but slender figure and fair skin were complimented by her dress.

As far as I could tell she didn't seem to be forced into anything. She walked up to lord Petros with a hauntingly calm smile on her face.

When Petros noticed her interruption, he slowly stood up and offered her his most dazzling smile yet.

"Sorry, Teresa. Your beauty is unmatched of course! But all women in the world are beautiful and I ask that you forgive me for my need to praise every gorgeous flower I see."

While using some exaggerated mannerisms in his apology, Petros lightly grasped Teresa's hand and kissed the back of it. This guy is quite the eccentric person.

As if she was used to his strange behavior, Teresa simply shrugged her shoulders and turned back to us.

"Thank you for coming, I never expected a messenger from Maple to come to this far off place. I am Teresa. Now Teresa Darine Lanbaltic."

She took a seat in the chair opposite to Ariane as she spoke. Like a diligent husband Petros happily pulled Teresa's chair out before taking a seat himself.

I tried to imitate his actions and moved to pull out Ariane seat, but she quickly sat down by herself. The person in question acted as if it didn't matter and proceeded to introduce ourselves to the two of them.

"I and Ariane Glenys Maple, nice to meet you. The one behind me is my guard, Arc."

"Arc, you say. A pleasure to make your acquaintance."

After offering us a polite head bow, Teresa looked at me with curiosity. Ponta was currently beneath my mantle so she shouldn't be visible. I wonder if something else caught her attention.

"Well, well, an elven knight. A knight whose beauty overshadows all others."

Petros smiled and chuckled as he looked at me. I see, they had been captivated by the extravagance of 『Belenus' Holy Armor』. That is, until they caught sight of Ponta popping up on my shoulder.

Teresa looked as if she wanted to say something, but Ariane stepped in to take control of the conversation.

"I'll get straight to the point, from what I understand you married the feudal lord……"

Her golden eyes were directly on Teresa. Understanding the hidden meaning in the statement, Teresa lightly chuckled before looking a Petros.

"Yes, that's the truth. We married each other about a month ago. Though there were various circumstances involved……"

Teresa and Petros naturally held hands on the table. While the two of them dove into their

own little world, Ariane stared at the sight in utter confusion.

It seemed like the two could stay forever in that world of theirs.

“We are in pursuit of members of elf slave traders. Correct me if I’m wrong, but you were brought here as a captive, weren’t you?”

Ariane’s question managed to break through the pair’s lovey-dovey atmosphere.

At her inquiry, the pair released each other’s hands and corrected their posture.

“So you weren’t messengers after all. You’re warriors sent out on a rescue mission.”

Instead of being shocked at that revelation, Teresa was nodding in understanding.

“That is correct……. I was indeed captured by slave traders and brought to Lanbaltic after I had been sold.”

Her eyebrow drooped as her mind wandered back to those days.

“My father, the previous lord, was the one who brought her. I could hardly believe that he could violate the kingdom’s hard-won treaty with such ease.”

Petros must have heard the distress in Teresa as he feebly lowered his head along with making a self-mocking sneer. Teresa looked at him with a worried expression.

“Wait. What became of the former lord that bought you, Londes De Lanbaltic?”

Ariane shake her head in confusion as she demanded an explanation. However, Petros was the one that answered.

“Father is currently confined within the castle…… I seized control of the domain when I learned of his treachery. This is a scandal that can’t be discussed carelessly, so when I heard that a messenger from the elven country arrived I wondered whether or not to cover everything up.”

Petros’ expression became troubled as he told the story of the pair’s marriage.

According to him, Teresa was brought to this territory about a year ago, it seemed the former lord Londes bought her from a group of slave dealers from the capital. A certain person that witnessed this told Petros about it, and on the grounds of treason against the kingdom Petros fought with his father to gain control of the household.

They had wanted to prevent the entire affair from leaking into rest of the kingdom, but there was still the elf Teresa to deal with.

“If that’s what happened, why’d you marry him?”

Ariane was frequently turning her head as she tried to connect the dots of the story , even I was trying to make sense of the pair’s story and the current situation.

Petros suddenly leaped from his seat and began to talk about the situation like a song.

“It’s simple! I fell in love with her the moment eyes upon her! My pitiful heart will forever be a prisoner of lo──”

“*giggling* Pretros……”

Petros made exaggerated hand gestures as he whispered sweet words into the blushing

Teresa’s ear before they gazed into each other’s eye’s and held hands again. It was like we’re watching a soap opera…… is someone around here gonna burst into spontaneous singing?

The old gentlemen in the back seemed glad about something as he looked at the pair with a slight smile on his face.

He seemed to be used to scenes like this, but constantly having to watch them drift off into their own little world was giving me a case of heartburn.

After seeing such a situation unfold in front of her in wide-eyed shock, Ariane was shaking her head in amazement.

“……Are you going to be all right here?”

Ariane’s question somehow managed to reach Teresa. Only pure concern for Teresa could be seen on Ariane’s face.

She was most likely worried about an elf and human living together. It’s likely she would had protested it more had it not been for the precedent Casey set.

Could she also be worried about the difference in life expectancy? Elves live an average of four hundred years, but a human like Petros could only live a hundred years at best. No, with this world’s poor medical care it’d be closer to sixty years. It’s all but ensured that Petros would die first. However, Teresa and the person in question must have understood that.

The pair shared another look before she gave a predictable answer.

“Yes. This is what I’ve decided.”

“If you say that you are okay with this, then I have nothing else to say…… I will inform your parents about this. What village are you from?”

Ariane had a slightly thoughtful expression as she understandingly offered to relieve Teresa’s parents and village of their worry.

“I’m from Milresto village. It’s a rather small village.”

“Milresto……huh.”

Ariane seemed to have remembered something when she heard the name of the village. Teresa looked suspicious as she asked a question with her eyes.

“Recently a group of small villages, including that one, were combined into a single large village. It no longer exists.”

Teresa was shocked for a moment before she turned away in an attempt to hide a lonely expression.

Ariane’s mother Glenys had mentioned that the small villages near human dwellings had absorbed into Raratoia.

Noticing Teresa’s distress Ariane quickly asked another question in order to change the topic.

“You said that the former lord is confined in this castle, but what happened to the slave

traders?”

However, it was Petros who calmly answered the question instead of Teresa.

“Ah, the leader of the slave traders has already been executed. ……But it seems that the group held quite some sway thanks to my father’s backing and the stragglers managed to escape the city to become bandits once they realized their main source of income had been lost.”

Petros folded his arms and smile wryly as he said that.

“Dealing with the underground market, the power struggle in the capital, as well as bandits outside the gate…… I have a headache.”

Hearing Petros’s story of bandits immediately reminded me of the group that had attacked the young adventures before we reached the town. Ariane looked back me and I nodded in confirmation.

“Hum, I don’t know if they’re the same bandits, but yesterday we helped some young adventures capture a group of bandits outside of town……”

Petros nodded as he listened to the story.

“There was a report about that. Ten more members of the group had been arrested yesterday, and even through more than half of the group has been captured……”

Pietro sighed deeply as he sunk back into his seat. Teresa got up to whisper something in his ear. Whatever she said shocked Pietro for a moment and he nodded before the pair looked in our direction.

“There’s something related to this, I would like to personally request something of the two of──”

“Please wait.”

Pietro had started to talk about something but Teresa stepped forward and interrupted him.

“Since this is my request, I’ll be the one to speak it.”

With a determined look on her face, Teresa looked at us and calmly opened her mouth.

“There is someone I’d like the two of you to find.”

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 10

V3 Chapter 10

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「The Elven Bride」 Part 2

At Teresa's words, Ariane and I glanced at each other before turning back to her.

"I know that this is an unreasonable thing to ask, but I was wondering if I could trust you two to find the person who accompanied me when I was first brought here……"

Teresa had a sullen expression when looked up to stare at Ariane. Her misty green eyes and trembling made her appear vulnerable.

"Who is this person you want us to find?"

Although Ariane seemed skeptical about this, she looked Teresa in the eyes and asked her to elaborate.

"When I was first brought here, it was a maid that informed Petros of the situation. Her name is Furani Markham, she disappeared three days ago and we've been unable to find her."

Teresa replied to Ariane with an earnest expression.

"Would this Furani woman happen to be your benefactor?"

Teresa looked confused for a moment before closed her eyes and nodded in response to Ariane's questions.

"Yes, she is certainly my benefactor, but she is also the first friend I made in this human city…… While Petros and his father battled for control of the household, she helped sheltering me. Every day she took care of my needs and talked with me."

"Is it possible that she was captured by the bandits we were talking about?"

Ariane brought up a possibility, but Petros denied it.

"No, the probability of that is low since she never leaves the city. Currently, merchants are visiting this city to buy enslaved criminals to sell them in a neighboring country, but among them there are those that kidnap citizens and ship them away."

The minstrel who had been whispering sweet words into Teresa's ear had been replaced by Petros the feudal lord.

"I just can't understand how you humans think…… You even try to enslave your own kind."

Teresa, the only other elf in the room, seem to have agreed with Ariane's throwaway statement.

"Lord Petros, do you believe that this maid was kidnapped by those people?"

When asked for his opinion, he looked tired as he nodded.

“Most likely. With the slave traders who controlled the underworld gone and the capital still in the midst of a power struggle, things are falling into anarchy. This is the result of my over eagerness, even with father defeated my power base has yet to stabilize. It’d be difficult and time-consuming to find Furani…… Teresa would like to search by herself, but I could never agree to that with the current level of public order.”

Petros was probably cautious of retaliation from the previous lord’s underworld contacts.

However, if the maid Furani was really kidnapped to be sold in another country, then they should be using the sea route. There should be a limited number of places we’d have to search then.

“Shouldn’t ships that are illegally transporting people to foreign countries be easy to find with harbor inspections?”

I really thought that thorough inspections would be able to catch the perpetrator so I suggested them, but things weren’t that simple.

“It might be possible if on-the-spot inspections could be conducted. If the ship has the backing of foreign nobles then I can’t carelessly interfere without decisive evidence. Not to mention that the guards conducting the inspection could be bribed for their silence…… Currently, I’m using my authority as feudal lord to restrict any ship from leaving the harbor, by that won’t last past tomorrow.”

Teresa expression became clouded at Petros words. Petros took both her hand in an attempt to cheer her up.

Even though he is a lord, if the ships were for the official use of foreign nobles then he couldn’t recklessly impose inspections. He couldn’t have the ships in the harbor monitored to prevent illegal cargo from being loaded either because he currently lacked complete control over his vassals.

Still, even though criminals are sent to neighboring countries as slaves, why are they abducting even more people? Is there a major development project or war going on?

“Why is the neighboring country so intent on gathering slaves?”

Even if the country isn’t directly involved in the kidnapping, it wouldn’t hurt to learn the details.

“Nozan is not the ones gathering the slaves. It appears that the on country gathering them is the next country over, the Hiruku Theocracy. Supposedly it to help the criminals attain atonement for their sins, but I think they’re just using them as laborers in the country’s mithril mines.

“Mithril mines, huh.”

Mithril was a familiar fantasy metal in the game. It was a material used in intermediate and advanced level items, so it should be a considerably valuable material in this world.

Even if we assume that the slaves were needed to mine the precious ore, there was still something about the situation that was hard to shallow.

It was the criminals. In order to attain them, they had to cross another country to purchase them from Rhoden. The transportation cost on the return trip should skyrocket.

I don’t know much about slave trading on earth, but it couldn’t be cheap to transport them through a country. I couldn’t see much profit on the merchant’s’ side.

When I asked Petros about this he said “Certainly.” before explaining how things were confounded by Hiruku’s masterful manipulation.

“Currently, Hiruku’s chivalrous knights can be seen throughout Nozan. Also, the amount of mithril ore exchanged for the slaves exceeds their actual value. Western Nozan territories have been heavily damaged by the recent monsters attacks, and the weapons made from the mithril ore are essential in the monster subjugations.”

I see, the merchants paid no heed to the transportation cost considering that they could obtain the highly valuable mithril. No wonder there was frenzied slave gathering going on.

However, that still left the theocracy with the majority of the costs.

“In addition, the people that have been chased out of Nozan by the monster attacks crossed the sea and flooded into the city, making it even more difficult to enforce public order.”

It seems that the refugees from Nozan were frequently the targets of the abductors and if one of them managed to escape they would be sent back to the Hiruku Theocracy as slaves.

“I’ve heard that dark elves had better sight and hearing than regular elves. Could you please help me find my friend?”

Teresa bowed to Ariane and begged her for help.

“I’ll ask you as well. I heard that elven warriors are quite powerful, if you offer us your services I’ll be willing to pay.”

Although Petros was a feudal lord he lowered his head to Ariane, a fake messenger. When we saw the appearance of the pair Ariane and I shared a look. Her golden eyes were asking me if I wanted to become involved with this.

“I will follow whatever decision you make, Ariane-dono.”

I didn’t really mind offering my assistance. Based on the determined look in her eyes it was clear what she was gonna do in regards to the request.

“…… I don’t how much of a difference it’ll make, but we’ll lend you our strength.”

Teresa and Petros had a joyous expression when they heard our answer.

They said that the maid Furani went missing three days ago, and while we don’t know how many ships had anchored in the harbor during that time period, we had to quickly find out.

We had Teresa and Petros describe Furani’s appearance to us before we tried to set off, but Petros raised his hand to stop us.

“Since you’re unfamiliar with this city I’ll assign you a guide.”

When he said that the old gentleman that had been standing in the back of the room offered a slight bow before leaving. A short time later, he returned and was accompanied

by a man adorned in an impressive set of armor.

The new person took a stand right beside Petros. His eyes bulged when he saw Ariane sitting in front of him, but he managed to regain his composure immediately.

“This is Gio Clintuso. He is the vice-captain of our territory’s knights, and he shall act as your guide.”

The vice-captain that Petros introduced quickly lowered his head in a soldier-like manner and offered us a gentle smile.

He looked to be in his early thirties, but his short-cut chestnut colored hair and meek smile contradicted the image of grizzled knight captain I had in my mind if anything he looked like a civil servant. However, his body was considerably tall and toned.

“I am Gio Clintos, it’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance.”

After greeting us with the smooth tongue of a veteran office worker, he stepped behind Petros.

“With him along there shouldn’t be many places in town that you can’t enter. Thanks in advance for helping find Furani.”

Petros and Teresa offered Ariane sincere glances as they thanked her. Ariane faintly nodded upon receiving their gratitude.

Once everything was settled and we were far enough away from the castle, Ariane adjusted her paces so that she was walking beside me.

“What’s the matter, Ariane-dono.”

When I tried to look her in the eye she would turn away from me for some reason.

“I’m sorry for dragging you along because of my own selfishness……”

After a bit of reflection, Ariane looked back at me and muttered that.

Although this was a requested from the elf Teresa, it could help humans as well. Ariane might actually be thinking about the betterment of the elf and human relationship. It wasn’t necessarily a bad thing.

Of course, that was merely my own assumption. It wouldn’t take a detective to see that I was a little biased in my assessment.

“Our objective has simply changed from rescuing Teresa to finding her friend Furani.”

She didn’t say anything in response to my remark, only looking away in apparent embarrassment and the edges of her mouth slightly rose.

“……Thank you, Arc.”

Receiving her small thanks caused my heart faintly pound. I’m starting to understand the mindset of the famous third generation master thief, there must have been an animalistic instinct buried in the hearts of men, wanting to fulfill a beautiful woman’s request.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 11

V3 Chapter 11

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Disturbance in Lanbaltic」 Part 1

The western section of Lanbaltic was referred to as Burugo gulf on account of the harbor, the closest structure to the Nozan kingdom, being built in the center of the area. Beyond the harbor lied a small island named Bis that was apparently a popular trade port of the Nozan kingdom in the past.

I was currently staring offshore from the harbor and could slightly make out the island in the distance. According to Gio, the island wasn't that far away, not even taking two hours to reach by ship.

Two large piers were built along the port and both large and small ships alike were anchored at them. There weren't many ships leaving thanks to Petros's restrictions. The occasional guard could be seen patrolling the area and keeping watch over the ships, but their work ethic varied, and many of the guards panicked when they saw Gio heading their way.

Since two days had already passed since the restriction were implemented, it would be unreasonable to keep this number of ships from leaving.

The harbor was crowded with people and the air was writhing with tension and insecurity. A lot of scruffy looking people were hanging around the harbor and the gentle atmosphere of the city was lost here.

Seeming to have sensed the danger of the area, Ponta had forgone her usual spot atop my head and was wrapped around my neck like a scarf with her head tucked in.

"The refugees from the western regions of Nozan congregate here, making the area quite dangerous…… Although the number of incoming refugees has decreased thanks to the restrictions, they're bound to rise once they are lifted. Quite the troubling situation. The anxiety and frustration of the residents has also increased thanks to rumors of ghost ship sightings."

Vice-captain Gio's voice took on a slightly better tone as he explained the city's current situation while guide Ariane and me through the harbor.

"Hasn't the Nozan Kingdom done anything to handle the situation in their western territory?"

If refugees were flowing in from across the gulf, the incident had to be a serious one. A kingdom couldn't maintain its rule for long if its normal response to situations like this was to sit around with their thumbs in their mouth.

"From what the refugees say, the holy knights of the Hiruku Theocracy have been sent in as first correspondents and Army support is on the way."

The Hiruku Theology was just west of the Norzan Kingdom, so it couldn't simply overlook an incident this close to their own border. However, was the Hiruku Theocracy the only neighboring country that had sent aid.

I asked Gio about it but he just looked confused and said he didn't know the details.

Unlike the information-oriented modern age of my old world, information seemed to be a rare commodity here. It must take a great deal of labor to amass reliable information, as few people even had a grasp on the conditions in neighboring countries. There could also be a simple gag order on information.

Petros had said that the Hiruku Theocracy had recently been purchasing a lot of slaves. Even if it was really for the purpose of mining mithril…

Mithril weapons were effective anti-monster weapons, so I'd understand using slave labor to mine the ore, but couldn't imagine their current methods being cost-effective.

While I was in the middle of considering all this, Ariane suddenly poked her eyes from beneath her hood and stared at me.

"Is something wrong Ariane-dono?"

When I looked back at her, Ariane placed her forefinger over her lips and did a quick scan of the area.

"A number of people have been following us for a while now."

Without moving my head I looked around the area from within my helmet and caught a suspicious looking man turning away from us. However, I couldn't find anyone else that Ariane had mentioned.

Elven warriors must've honed their senses to the point where they could perceive the actions of multiple people at once, or maybe it was something she could do because she was a dark elf. Either way, her perception abilities were beyond normal.

However, what exactly were the intentions of the people following us? Even though the two of us stood out a bit, this was the first time that either of us has been to this city.

Were they related to disappearance of the maid Furani? I couldn't think of any other reason for someone to follow us, so maybe they were spies sent by the kidnappers.

However, no one should know that Ariane and I have been asked by Petros to search for the missing maid.

But in that case……

I looked at Gio who was walking in front of us.

If the vice-captain of the territory's knights was in the area, it was only obvious that members of the underworld market would be worried. They might not be following Ariane and me, they could've been ordered to shadow Gio.

"Could those guys be following vice-captain Gio?"

When I asked her, Ariane stopped walking and faintly shook her head.

"Their attention seems to be focused on us……"

I was getting more confused by the second. Ariane and I looked at each other while trying to make sense of this. Gio had walked ahead a bit before he noticed we had stopped walking and came back to us.

“Is something wrong?”

Gio looked worried as he came back to talk to us.

After looking at Ariane for a moment, I answered Go’s question direction.

“Apparently, a group of people have been watching us for a while……”

Gio’s eyes bulged when he heard my reply took a look around with only his eyes.

“……Is that true?”

Ariane lowered her voice before she answered Gio’s latest question.

“Though I don’t know why, they’ve been following us since we entered the harbor.”

“Could they be the involved with Furani’s kidnapping……”

When Gio said that a doubt entered my mind.

“Wait a second. Gio-dono. Do you know how Furani was captured in the first place?”

Gio’s eye shifted from the left to right at my question before lowering his head.

A maid that worked for the lord should spend most of her time in the castle. While I didn’t know the details, I doubted it’d be easy to kidnap a live-in-maid without anyone seeing anything. On the contrary, various statements describing the perpetrators should would exist.

“……It was my fault.”

Gio eyes remained downcast as he answered my question in a strained voice.

“I asked her to run an errand outside of the castle. I should have gotten one of my subordinates to accompany her on that errand…… So when Petros asked for a guide I volunteered, believing that I could at least make up for my mistake.

“Why don’t we separate from Gio here?”

When he heard that question, Gio raised his head and rapidly looked back and forth between Ariane and I.

“Why!? I can still help with the sear──”

Ariane raised her hand to cut Gio off before she started to speak again.

“Don’t you think it’d be better if we acted as decoys and draw them out?”

I chipped in to explained her plan to him.

“Hmm. Gio, you’re a well known figure in this city. If we want to lure these guys out, it’d be better if you aren’t with us.”

“B-But……”

Gio tried to say something but, Ariane simply asked for his agreement in a calm tone.

“We don’t have much time, do we? We need even the tiniest of clues.”

Eventually, Gio lowered his eye and hesitantly nodded before speaking in a lifeless tone.

“I understand…… I’ll head towards the harbor’s guard station.”

“Let’s meet up back here In about an hour.”

After everyone was in agreement, Gio went off on his own.

While waving at Gio’s retreating back, I asked Ariane a question.

“Will they take the bait?”

“In the worst case, we’ll split up if they don’t come after the two of us.”

Ariane casually laughed after she replied to me.

I think we’d fall behind if Ariane and I had to go off on our own, but I couldn’t be too careless. I could only pray that the stalkers would take the bait of two people.

I accompany Ariane through the harbor while we occasionally describe the maid Furani’s appearance to a couple sailors and asked them for information. As we asked around, people who seemed to know something would all give vague answers to our questions or refused to speak to us. They probably didn’t want to be involved with the underworld power struggle that Petros mentioned.

Without much in terms of results, we cautiously entered the warehouse district on the south side of the harbor.

While there was a lot of foot traffic on the main roads, the number of people decreased the moment stepped into the back alley. It seemed like the warehouses far away from the piers weren’t used much.

Vagabond-like people that were crouching in the alleyways looked at us with suspicion, but they didn’t do anything as their gazes drifted off.

“How’s it going, Ariane-dono?”

When I asked Ariane about our surroundings, her golden eyes took a strange shine to them when they peeked from under her hood and started to smile. Apparently we caught something.

“There are six men behind us and five more closing in from each side.”

We arrived at a large open area between the warehouses as she spoke and ten men were waiting there with large grins on their faces.

When I looked back I saw that the men behind us had blocked off our escape route. The few uninvolved people in the area noticed something was up and quickly left the in order avoid any trouble.

A quick look around revealed that we were surrounded by more than twenty men.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 12

V3 Chapter 12

「Disturbance in Lanbaltic」Part 2

“This is a rather grand welcoming committee we got here…”

“Even if they got quite a few people, it doesn’t feel that way to me.”

Standing in the middle of the open space, Ariane shrugged her shoulders in response to my little joke, as the men surrounding us started to sneer.

“Don’t think you have a lot of leeway, you blockhead! Did you hit your head or something?”

When one of the men, who was holding a large war hammer in his hands, insulted us the other men simultaneously started to laugh.

“Oioi, there could be another elf inside that armor, ya know? Handle that one carefully! Well, our target is the woman, so make sure you don’t leave any scars!!”

The one saying this was apparently the person in charge, a man with short hair who stared at us with a mocking smile on his face as he licking his lips. However, he didn’t give off the feeling of being the slave traders’ boss and felt more like an underling instead.

Their objective seemed to be the capture of Ariane.

“Hehehe, we’re lucky a dark elf came to a human town! I can’t contain my excitement at how much we can sell her for!”

“Oh yeah, my little Johnny is getting all excited as well!!”

When Ariane irritatedly lowered her cloak’s hood to look around, the men who surrounded us grew even more excited.

That reminded me, Ariane was a dark elf, a rarity among the elven race. Elves were like money trees to humans, so it was inevitable that people like this would come along and attempt to sell her. Due to the way Petros and the people of Buranbeina acted, I had completely forgotten about that.

When we went to gain an audience with Petros, one of these guys must have seen Ariane reveal her face and decided to follow her here.

“Humans are humans after all. You’ll regret targeting me……”

Her eyes were filled with anger as she spoke and unsheathed the 『Sword of the Lion King』. The surrounding men only let out more cheers as they watched her.

It seems like those guys didn’t know that elves were excellent warriors, if they believe that their numerical advantage was more than enough, then their attitude had gone beyond reckless.

I could only sigh as I looked at all of them before I grabbed hold of my shield and gave

Ariane a brief reminder.

“We need to get information and they can’t talk if they’re all dead. Also, killing them in broad daylight while we’re in a human city would cause be more trouble than it’s worth.”

“Alright!”

Ariane had barely agreed before she ran off at breakneck speed towards the nearest men. A moment later a man’s scream echoed through the area.

The ground at the feet of the three men she targeted suddenly rose up and stuck them in place. By the time the other men noticed the screams of their companions, Ariane had already slashed the three with her sword. The speed of her swing had increased from before. I wasn’t sure if it was because she was serious, if the 『Sword of the Lion King』 was showing its effect, or if her natural strength and skills were simply greater than those of these men.

Two of the men were crouching in pain with slashes on their arms and chests, while the last had been hit so hard in the head by the sword hilt that his eyes rolled back as he fell. The surrounding men scowled at her as they took a fighting stance and drew their weapons, but she was already approaching her next targets.

When I heard a shout from behind me, I took the shield in my left hand turned it on the charging tough-looking man. The space between the two of us had vanished and the man was already pulling his weapon back to gain momentum for his swing.

“【Shield Bash】!!”

It was one of the warrior class’ basic skills, meant to push enemies back. However, the mythical class shield combined with this body’s strength resulted in the simple skill carrying an overwhelming amount of power.

The shield gave off a slight glow as I thrust it towards the attacking man. The end result was that two men further away lost hold of their weapons, while five others were flung against a wall. The arms of the men that lost their weapons were mangled and the necks of those who had been blown away were twisted in the wrong direction.

“Uhh… that was an unexpected accident. Therefore, it’s totally not my fault!”

While I was trying to make excuses for myself, the remaining men finally noticed the overwhelming difference in power and were already running away in fear. As for Ariane, they had already seen how she brought down six men.

Among the people who were running away, I spotted the back of the energetic, short-haired underling.

“As if I would allow you to escape!”

I quickly caught up to the underling and firmly struck his back with my shield with the correct amount of power.

“GYAAHIIIIIII!!”

The short-haired underling screamed in pain as he was badly bruised after he hit the ground. It wasn’t necessary to use skills on regular humans.

When I bent down and grabbed the man be the neck, he started begging for his life.

“Hiii!! W-Wait!! Just my life, please just spare my life!!”

“Such a noisy man, you should learn to be quiet for a bit.”

I offered the man some frank advice as I dragged him to Ariane while she was looking at the bodies scattered about the area.

“Ariane-dono, things are finished on my end and I found someone that can talk.”

“Arc, some actually managed to survived that?”

When Ariane said that, she had a regretful expression as she looked between the groaning men with slashes across their arms and legs at her feet, and the bodies that were still embedded in the side of the wall.

“Well, stuff like that tend to happen. Besides, I was able to secure someone who’s guaranteed to talk.”

Saying so, I lifted the grim-faced underling, who had been quiet until now, up by the scruff of his neck. Ariane’s golden eyes narrowed as she glared at the man. The blood stained sword with the lion-shaped hilt in her hands made the look in her eyes all the more frightening.

The underling let out a wretched scream as a stain appeared in the crotch of his pants. Apparently, he had lost his nerve in front of her.

This was the perfect opportunity to try out some interrogation methods of cop dramas. If I’m not mistaken, we should play good cop and bad cop for the interrogation, right?

“There’s no need to be afraid if you just answer two or three of our questions. Ahh, but your answers better not upset her. Your chances to answer equals the number of your limbs, if your answers aren’t satisfactory, she’ll start to cut them off one by one.”

I had yet to release the man’s neck, as he turned pale after I finished whispering the ultimatum into his ear. Wasn’t the good cop supposed to act like this? Ariane did stare at me in protest, but she’ll be playing the bad cop here.

“The first question is for your right arm. Are your bosses selling people to Nozan slaves traders? Well?”

While I was calmly asking the question, I took the underling’s right arm and held it out in front of Ariane. Her eyes seemed to say there was no helping it as she placed her sword on the man’s arm.

“Hiiiii, t-that’s right! We sell slaves to Nozan merchants!”

The man answered with a cramped expression as he struggled to pull back his arm. I gave an exaggerated nod to show that his answer was satisfactory before patting his cheek of the check and moved on to the next question.

“The next question is for your left arm. You’ll answer correctly, won’t you? Have you been kidnapping people from this city? Well?”

Strongly grabbing hold of the man’s shoulder, I politely asked the question. The tip of

Ariane's sword was quickly moved to his left arm.

"Y-Yes! B-But we many target refugees that wander around the city! You have to believe me!! We were tempted by the devil when we learned that a valuable elf appeared in the city!!"

"I see, I see. Does your group also kidnap proper citizens as well?"

The underling's eyes were rapidly looking back and forth while I was asking for a confirmation while smiling beneath my helmet. Since my smile couldn't be seen from under my helmet, I began tightening my grip on his shoulder more and more.

"J-Just sometimes! If we only targeted citizens we'd be too easy to track! It's the truth!!"

"Is that so, on to the next question then. Among the citizens you sometimes capture, was there a maid? I'm sure her name was…… Furani Markham. Do you have information about the women called Furani?"

I spoke slowly so the man could process what I was saying while slowly relaxing my grip on his shoulder. The man must have been a heavy sweater because his entire back was covered in sweat.

"I don't know!! I don't know anything about such a woman, I swear!! You said the woman was a maid!? That's totally unreasonable! Why would we kidnap someone so easy to identify!!"

The man was on the verge of tears as he looked up at Ariane and me.

"I'm gonna ask about your boss now. Where are they holding all the kidnapped people?"

"B-Because they plan to leave the harbor at one in the morning…… everything should already be loaded on the ship!"

"Then can you guide us to the ship?"

"Please forgive me! I'll be killed if I did that!!"

Completely ignoring the man's pleas I grabbed him by the neck again and dragged him towards the harbor, Ariane following behind after she sheathed her sword.

Our little uproar was attracting the stares of the fishermen in the harbor, when we reached a wharf where all the ships were visible, the area had taken a solemn atmosphere.

"That ship over there!! You haven't been given permission to depart yet! Stop!!"

There were several guards yelling at a ship that was setting sail. At one of the piers filled with ships, I could see a ship slowly advancing towards the offing.

The ship was apparently leaving without having permission to depart.

However, the underling lowered his head when he saw the departing ship and he went pale as he started to shout.

"Fuck! What is this?! I was hired to sail!! You shitty bastards were the ones that sent us to capture the elf, and then you leave me behind when things get dangerous?!"

Like a puppet with its strings cut, the man fell to the ground before he started to scream

curses at the departing ship and punched the ground, ignoring his own shortcomings.

Those who managed to escape must have reported what had happened to their boss and prompted the crew to make the hasty escape.

After all, capturing and selling elves was a serious offense in Rhoden. If the planned capture had failed, then those involved would be labeled criminals.

It was necessary for them to run…… but I had no intention of letting them get away.

“Ariane-dono, look after this guy!”

Saying only that, I dashed towards the pier.

Since it had to travel slower in order to swerve around the other ships docked at the harbor, the slave traders’ ship hadn’t made it that far away.

If it weren’t so crowded, I could have used 【Dimensional Step 】to transfer to the ship’s deck, but there were simply too many witnesses.

I leaped onto one of the ships docked at the pier and started to jump from ship to ship. The rocking my landings created caused some of the those ships’ crew members to yell at me, but I paid them no mind as I closed in on my target.

The captain of the slave ship looked my way when he heard the commotion, but it was too late. Reaching the ship that was docked the closest to the slave traders’ ship, I took a giant leap and managed to land on the vessal’s starboard bow. 。

One of the crewmen immediately drew his weapon and attacked, but I caught his arm and threw him with all my strength, sending him flying at an impressive arc before he hit the water.

After that, I climbed onto the ship’s deck.

“T-T-That’s the guy!! He followed us here!!”

When I surveyed the ship I noticed the sound of approaching footsteps from below while a man was shrieking at me. He must have been present in the warehouse district, considering that his eyes were bulging and he had broken into a cold sweat.

“Kill that intruder immediately!!”

A large, hairy man dressed like a traditional pirate, who was most likely the captain, stepped forward and started yelling orders at the crew.

Having been revitalized by the command, the entire crew drew their weapons and rushed me. As the surge of people closed in, I grabbed my shield off my back.

“【Shield Bash】!!”

The force generated by the collision blow many crew members off of the ship and into the sea. The blow also caused waves to appear across the sea’s surface while screams could be heard all over the ship.

When they realized that they were no match for me, the remaining crew members jumped into the sea, leaving only the captain on the deck.

“W-Who are you !? Don’t think that you can just get away with this, bastard!!”

The captain screamed at me despite the fact that the sword in his hand was trembling. When I silently took a step forward, the captain expression turned solemn as he took a frightened step back.

The captain closed his eyes as I made a large swing with my shield and directed a 【Shield Bash】 at one of the ship’s twin masts.

The sonic boom that stuck the mast caused it to bend and sent wood chips flying everywhere. The mast tittered there until it’s last fastenings gave way, letting it fall into the sea with a grand splash.

Suddenly, shouts of admiration burst forth from all the people in the harbor who had been watching.

As I watched the large bodied captain sniveling at my feet like a small animal, I wondered if I had gone overboard.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 13

V3 Chapter 13

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Disturbance in Lanbaltic」 Part 3

A crowd had gathered at the harbor.

The slave trader ship with the broken mast was towed to the pier and quite a few people had been found locked up inside the cargo hold. The majority of the captured people were refugees, but there were also young women from the city mixed in with them. As for the captain and the crew, they were taken away by the guards.

“You’ll only cause trouble if you do this sort of thing without consulting with me first.”

Ariane was staring at me when Gio admonished me by saying that line with a wry smile and a troubled look in his eyes. I could even see wrinkles forming on his forehead.

He was quite angry. Since arresting criminals is the duty of the territory’s knights and guards, it was only natural that outsiders like us would receive this rebuke.

However, for some reason Ariane was giving Gio a questioning look.

“They’re all criminals, right? What’s wrong with capturing them?”

“It’s the role of humans to police humans! ……No, for your assistance in capturing these criminals I thank you on behalf of the Knight corps.”

After his outburst, Gio looked a little embarrassed and stopped speaking, then lowered his head and thanked us before walking off.

Ariane narrowed her eyes at this before moving closer to whisper into my ear without Gio noticing.

『Arc, something’s off about that man. When we split from him before, the number of trackers increased by one. He could have been following us in secret.』

I immediately turned towards Gio.

That was weird, wasn’t it? Though he was appointed as the guide to an enigmatic duo, he was quick to separate from us and act on his own. It was possible that he had someone keeping an eye on us from the shadows.

However, if he had been tailing us, then a knight like him should have been able to rush in when we were attacked in the warehouse district. It might be reasonable to assume that the additional tracker had been a subordinate, but if that person was under Gio’s command it would mean that he knew about the attack beforehand.

However, this was mere speculation and it wouldn’t amount to anything if there was no definitive evidence.

I quickly looked away from Gio and looked over the slave trader crew that was being

hauled away by the guards.

“Although the illegal slave traders have been captured, the person we’re searching for has yet to be found.”

I spoke in a level tone while folding my arms, Ariane’s golden eyes squinted beneath her hood as she nodded and scouted the area.

“Arc, I found another suspicious ship.”

Ariane pulls on my arm as she said and started to walk away, I followed along as my interest had peaked.

“Is there really a suspicious ship?”

“Yes, some men near it have been watching the situation unfold for a while now.”

“However, we have no evidence or testimony this time, and I’m hesitant to draw as much attention as before……”

“There should be conclusive evidence from the people being held captive, right? It’ll be alright.”

She was expressing a strange amount of confidence as we made our way through the harbor and approached a black ship at the end of the pier. The merchant ship was larger than the slave trader’s and I could see many sailors aboard the ship who all showed open wariness when they saw us approaching.

By the time we reached the merchant ship, a wall of ten crewmen was already blocking our path.

“Do you have any business on our ship?”

A half-naked, burly man made the mistake of demanding our purpose here. The man had a multitude of sword scars on his arms and snorted as he seemed to look down at us.

However, Ariane didn’t bother to answer him. Instead, she sighed before whispering something into her hand, creating a light that disappeared just as instantly as it had appeared. Only after that did Ariane turn towards the burly man and addressed him.

“This ship is suspicious, so we’re checking it out. We have no business with you.”

“If you have no purpose, then get out of here! Don’t interfere with our work!! You too, Mr. Knight.”

Faced with Ariane’s nonchalant behavior in the face of his intimidating manner, the burly man’s eyebrows rose and he was about to raise his voice for another threat when the sudden appearance of a flashily dressed merchant parted the human wall.

“Let’s see, let’s see… Is there anything this humble vessel of the Deoin Company can help you with?”

The flashy man’s smile and slimy glaze focused on us as he asked why we were here.

“We have no business yet.”

Ariane’s comment from beneath her hood caused the merchant to narrow his eye in

confusion and he gave us a questioning smile.

It was a familiar voice that broke the tension.

“Please wait a moment! Ariane-sama, Arc-dono.”

Looking back, I saw a single man approaching us. It was none other than the Lanbaltic territory’s knight vice-captain Gio.

“Vitsio-dono, is something wrong?”

“Ah, Gio-sama, nothing’s wrong, it’s just that these two seem to have some business on our ship.”

The merchant Gio called Vitsio, made a nonchalant gesture and shrugged his shoulders, now flaunting a vulgar smile.

“Ariane-sama, this ship belongs to the Deoin trading company, the firm headed by Earl Orunato of the Nozan Kingdom. It’s impossible for this ship to be related to the case as it has already undergone proper inspection.”

There was a hint of criticism in Gio’s voice, but Ariane paid him no mind as she focused in on something else.

Gio took that chance to step between her and Vitsio.

Apparently we wouldn’t be able to just meddle with this ship. If it was working under a foreign noble, then we couldn’t act without evidence.

While the two of them glared at one another, the light that had disappeared suddenly returned to Ariane’s side. While I had been directly staring at the light, the people around us suddenly grimaced and covered their eye as if it were brighter than I thought.

When the light vanished, Ariane ignored the flow of the previous conversation and called out to the merchant all of the sudden.

“Can you explain why there are people held captive on the ship?”

“What are you talking about? As it’s already been said, this ship belongs to Nozan Kingdom’s──”

The merchant gave us a wry smile at her question and tried to repeat the name of his backer, however, he was cut off when Ariane removed the hood hanging in front of her eyes.

Her lilac skin and pointy ears must have clued everyone in on her race as her reveal caused many of the people around us to stir.

“I am Ariane Glenys Maple, an elf of Great Canada Forest. Is this Earl Orunato of the Nozan Kingdom willing to cause strife with the elves because of your actions here?”

Her golden eyes narrowed as she stared down the merchant Vitsio. Here tone was so provocative it upset the man to the point where he was scowling and twitched uncontrollably.

“If you have nothing to hide, there should be no problem with letting us on board.”

Ariane’s constant provocations caused Vitsio face to turn deep red as well as loosing up his lips.

“A lowly barbaric elf has the audacity to insult a human such as I!?”

The men surrounding us started to emit a dangerous aura at Vitsio’s shout. Normally, it was the unknown people that would be driven away in this scene.

However, Ariane wasn’t in any state of mind to do that. She faintly smiled before running towards the man with the scars and lightly jumped on his head and over the human wall.

“Huh! Bitch!!”

The person showed a bit of surprise that quickly turned into anger as Ariane ran towards the ship. Vitsio was dumbfounded for a moment before he started shrieking.

“Catch that elf!! Quickly!! This is not what was agreed upon!! What’s going on, Gio!! Our ship shouldn’t be required to undergo an on-the-spot inspection!!”

Faint blue veins appeared on Vitsio’s temple and vice-captain Gio’s face had turned pale at the sudden change.

Gio started to panic as he recovered and unintentionally stepped back while looking around.

“Hoo, Gio-dono you’re aware of some unknown circumstances?”

When I questioned him, Gio grew impatient and started fast-talking.

“A-Arc-dono you have to stop her!! This could lead to problems between the Nozan Kingdom and our territory!! We have to avoid that situation at all cost!!”

Hearing Vitsio’s words and looking at Gio’s reaction revealed everything to me. However, it may be interesting to see them trip over themselves.

“Understood! I’ll stop Ariane-dono!”

I started running towards the ship after saying that. The crew was already chasing after her and the guards stationed at the harbor began to gather as they noticed the uproar.

Ariane was prancing around like an acrobat aboard the ship while her pursuers roared in irritation. There were already people who had passed out in exhaustion and even a few of them had been knocked into the water.

I stepped into the middle of the hectic chase on the ship’s deck under the pretext of trying to catch Ariane.

“♩♩Uoooh〜 Ariane-dono〜 You have to behave yourself〜♪!”

When I pretended to pounce at Ariane while speaking in a singsong manner, she lightly jumped onto the anchor’s capstan to avoid the telegraphed strike.

With the momentum of my pounce, I hammered my fist into the floor board with everything I had.

The supposedly thick upper deck was easily split open and the force from the blow didn’t stop until penetrating the cargo hold.

“OMy ur shippp〜〜〜!!”

I heard Vitsio’s feeble scream as I fell into the large hole I had opened up.

“Ky〜un……”

After landing, Ponta uncoiled herself from my neck and seemingly rolled her eyes and shook her head before jumping to the floor.

I fixed my helmet that had started to slip off and looked around the dim interior of the ship. There were bundles of thick rope laying around that seemed to be used as some sort of foothold. There was a relatively large cabin as well.

Since Ariane believed that there were people captive inside the ship, I will believe her and start searching the ship to find them.

“I came to help! If there’re any kidnapped people down here, speak up!!”

The air stirred when I shouted down the hole before several of the crew members drew their weapons and attacked.

Even if I suddenly yelled that I was here to help, the ones hold captive would probably think it’s a trap and were too scared to speak up. I looked around for the captives while simultaneously knocking away the attacking crew members and called out again.

“Lady Teresa sent us to help! Furani Markham, answer if you’re here!!”

Just as I started to consider seizing the ship and searching every nook and cranny someone replied.

“Lady Teresa really sent help?! I’m over here! I’m Furani Markham!!”

When I looked in the back of the cabin I saw an entrance to the cargo hold that was covered by a metal grating. Fingers seeped through gaps as a sole woman’s voice rose from behind it. The other captives must have been convinced that help was coming since I could hear them talk amongst themselves.

Anyway, it seems I found our target. Brushing aside the two that were standing watch, an avalanche of people poured out of the hold once I cut the padlock off the door.

Among the freed people, I immediately spotted the maid Furani Markham.

I singled her out thanks to the maid uniform I saw in the castle and because her brunette hair was held in a chignon with a hairpin. Her large black eyes reflected fear when she looked up at me.

“I’m Furani Markham…… Are you the knight Lady Teresa sent to rescue me?”

“My name is Arc. I’m an adventurer responding to Lady Teresa’s request, not a knight.”

I give a self-introduction in an attempt to ease her noh mask, but she looked like she didn’t believe me when I said I was an adventurer.

“It’s unnecessary to stay here any longer. Everyone follow me.”

I said so while placing Furani behind me for safety, before I kicked the door down and led us outside. Occasionally,when some of the remaining crew members tried to attack us, I’d

either lightly punch them through the wall, or stick their ass in a barrel so they were no longer an obstacle.

When our group finally made it above deck we found the crew members sprawling along the ground and Ariane standing tall amongst their bodies.

Many of the people behind me looked at the scene in a state of shock.

“That was impressive, Arc, creating such a large hole in the ship without magic. Did you find who we were looking for?”

There wasn’t a single wound on Ariane lilac skin and she was attracting a lot of attention as she started to laugh while her white hair was blown by the sea breeze.

I could hear drunk-like sighs of admiration coming from behind me.

“Ah, this is Furani the women that Teresa sent us to find.”

When I stepped aside to reveal Furani to Ariane, Furani rushed to lower her head and offer a proper greeting.

“So, we were able to safely fulfill her the request.”

Ariane looked pleased and breathe a sigh of relief.

After Ariane explained the situation to the city guards gathered on the ship’s deck, they quickly arrested the crew while Ariane and I simply looked on from the sidelines.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 14

V3 Chapter 14

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「To the Eastern Empire」

“Lady Teresa!”

“Furani!”

Maid Furani and Teresa were embracing one another in front of Petros after we arrived at the castle.

“Though I was only heeding my wife’s request, I am also glad Furani is safe.”

Petros held out his hand to Ariane as he said that. Ariane looked between Petros’s outstretched hand and his face before she took his hand.

“I really…… didn’t do anything all that impressive.”

Ariane looked away as she bluntly responded, leading Petros to flaunt a brilliant smile and urging everyone to sit down.

Adorned in my luxurious full body armor I couldn’t sit down on a sofa, so I stood behind Ariane as you’d expect from a guard.

Just like me, there was an unfamiliar older gentlemen who stood rigidly behind Petros and Teresa.

“I understand that she had been held captive in that ship. However, that ship was certified by one of the companies of Earl Orunatto of Nozan Kingdom, and it’d be no small matter if he was connected to the kidnapping of citizens…… May I ask how you came across your evidence?”

Petros wore a wry smile as he questioned Ariane, but it was Furani that came forward and answered him.

“That reminds me, when I was still in the cargo hold, I heard a woman’s voice call out to me. I unconsciously replied, but those around me said that they didn’t hear anyone call out for me…… thinking about it, the voice was similar to lady Ariane’s.”

Teresa’s expression said that she had understood what had happened when she heard that.

“Ah, did you use wind spirit magic?”

Ariane offered a small nod before she explained herself.

“Since I don’t have a contract with wind spirits, I’m only able to project my voice several meters away at most.”

“Wind spirits are rather fickle, it’s amazing enough that you can do that even without a contract.”

Ariane turned away and scratched her cheek in embarrassment when she heard Teresa’s

praise.

She probably summoned a wind spirit when I saw her speaking into her hand before having it fly off. Apparently spirit magic was usable as wireless communication.

Petros nodded in admiration as he listened to the two's conversation.

"Nevertheless, it's still hard to believe that Gio was behind Furani's kidnapping……"

When Petros sighed and expressed his disbelief, the man behind him stepped forward and lowered his head.

"This incident was the result of my lack of oversight, I'm not even worthy of asking those harmed for forgiveness. As the captain of the knight order, I Herido Gankona am to blame──"

The man who introduced himself as Herido had a Kaiser mustache and slicked-back, gray hair. He was vehemently trying to claim responsibility for this whole affair, but Petros cut him off with a light wave of his hand.

"Herido, there is no one to blame but me. I was the one that usurped father's position as feudal lord without gaining complete control first……"

It seems that Gio tried to run away amongst the confusion our actions caused, but he was quickly arrested by a squad led by captain Herido himself.

"Did he do it for the money?"

"That seems to have been part of it, but his main goal was to restore public order by ridding the city of refugees. However, he was willing to turn a blind eye to the kidnapping of citizens as well. That fellow even overlooked some of that trader's other shadier practices."

Herido had a sour look on his face as he answered my question about Gio's motives.

I did notice that Gio didn't really care for the refugees when we were with him.

The reason Furani had been captured was because she had come across the company's goons capturing refugees and delivering them to Vitsio's ship. Gio had her kidnapped and set to be sold in order to silence her.

One could say that the reason for Furani's safety and well-being was the greed of these two men, since Gio wanted to put her up for sale and Vitsio was more that happy at the opportunity to sell an educated slave.

"Since this barbaric act was commissioned by one of the holdings of a foreign noble, are you planning to investigate them?"

Petros wore a bitter smile as he shook his head no.

"If I confront Earl Orunatto about the members of the Deoin firm, he could easily claim that they were using forged licenses. I don't want to thoughtlessly aggravate a foreign noble, not to mention the fact that we forcibly boarded the ship. Considering that the opposition suffered serious injuries and lost a ship, I believe that they will remain silent to preserve their honor."

That’d be natural considering the fact that our evidence was obtained by Ariane’s magic and we didn’t even bother going through proper channels. However, if we tried to follow protocol, it would have been impossible to conduct an on-the-spot ship inspection.

“Though it won’t make up for the disturbance we caused, I think I have an idea about what to do with the overflow of refugees.”

Both Herido and Petros stared at me in interest when I made that comment.

I took a step in front of Ariane and informed them about our stop in Buranbeina on our journey here and about a piece of information I just remembered.

Specifically, I told them about how Sukitosu’s farmlands had recently been expanded and that he was understaffed. Although the project may not require a lot of workers, it should be a viable refugee management method.

“I thought that that area couldn’t support that many people…… nor could I image that an elf would be living there. Perhaps while I’m negotiating with that other lord about the refugees I can talk about joining the faction of her highness princess Juliana, since we both seem to promote a friendly relationship with the elves.”

After hearing my suggestion, Petros thought it over. However, something he said caused Ariane to lean forward in curiosity.

“Is this princess Juliana a member of Rhoden Kingdom’s royal family?”

“Yes, of those involved in the fight for succession, her highness is the only one trying to promote friendship with the elves. When my father was the acting feudal lord, we were part of prince Douglass’ faction, but I’ve decided to join the princess’ faction considering my lovely wife’s circumstance.”

Ariane’s interest grew as she listened to Petros’s story. A member of this country’s royal family was taking an interest in diplomatic relationships with the elves,after all.

While Ariane had been continuing her discussion about princess Juliana with Petros, I was suddenly hit with a sense of deja vu at the princess’s name. If I couldn’t remember it immediately, then it must not have been all that important, so I decided to move on.

For the matter at hand, Petros penned a letter he sealed with wax and gave us two copper passes for the Lanbaltic territory to expedite our travels.

If you thought about the future of elves and humans, then these things would be important. I suppose the protection they offered would be useful if we came back here often. Though our actions here were quite the spectacle, in 49 days or so the rumors should die out. Wait, wasn’t 49 days the schedule of a Buddhist memorial?

While I was lost in thought, Ariane’s tapping on my shoulder made me realize that she had finished her talk.

After parting ways with Teresa, Petros and Furani, we quickly left Lanbaltic. Once we were sure we were out of sight, I invoked 【Transfer Gate】 to return us to the elven village Raratoia.

The monster-filled Great Canada Forest was where the majority of elves lived, and the towering tree that stood at the center of this village clued me into the fact that we arrived

at Ariane’s childhood home.

When I invoked【Transfer Gate】, the scenery that overlooked the Burugo gulf was replaced by a mansion and it was later in the day.

Though it looked like a large tree at first glance, this was actually a mansion built into a tree using elven techniques. This fusion of the natural and unnatural was the home of Raratoia’s elder, who was also Ariane’s father.

Normally, a human like myself wouldn’t have been able to enter an elven village so easily, but transfer magic made entering the village directly no problem.

Besides, Ariane’s father had already given me permission to come and go as I pleased… Furthermore this mansion had left a strong impression in my mind, something I needed in order to use transfer magic correctly.

Although the sunlight was blocked by the branches and leaves, looking at the surroundings revealed it to be dusk. The lights created from the magic tools and the smell of dinner wafted from the mansion’s windows.

The tempting smell of food made Ponta raise her nose and let out a soft “Ky〜un”.

I followed Ariane as she opened the large wooden doors and headed towards the dining room.

After entering the spacious hall and standing between the giant pillars inside the atrium, a male elf descended from the second floor using the staircase that passed the periphery of the room..

He appeared to be in his late twenties or early thirties, had long green tinged blonde hair and was wearing clothes similar to those of a Shinto priest.

He was none other that Ariane’s father and village elder of Raratoia, Dylan Targ Raratoia.

When Dylan saw his daughter he beamed with joy as he made his way over.

“You’re back earlier than expected, were there any problems with the other rescues?”

After Dylan gave Ariane a look-over, Ariane told him the details of our encounter with Teresa in Lanbaltic.

“I see…… I guess we have no right to interfere if she decided to stay of her own will. That information about princess Juliana is also interesting. If we’re able to get in contact with someone from the other side, then the matter of the lord Ariane killed can be resolved peacefully.”

As Dylan was saying this, he was holding the letter Ariane had been given by Lord Petros in his hands, looking at it with great interest.

“By the way, when we stopped by a town called Buranbeina on our way to Lanbaltic, we came across an elf called Casey Held.”

“Casey Held…… Ah yes, he was the person who wrote the encyclopedia of forest monsters.. There was a rumor that he left the forest a long time ago, but I never imagined he’d be in such a place. I’ll be sure to inform the great elders of this.”

Dylan showed a brief smile before his look turned serious.

“The only one left is the man called Drusus De Barishimon…… According to what the person of the Plains and Mountains Chiome claimed, he is part of the Eastern Empire, right?”

Seeing Ariane nod at this caused Dylan’s eyebrow to rise.

“The territories of the Eastern and Western Empire are vast, and it’s unknown what’d happen if you, an elf, were to be discovered in either of them. We elves were originally scattered throughout the entire northern continent before we were driven out of the original Leburan Empire. Ariane, while I don’t doubt your strength, please don’t do anything reckless.”

“I know, but with Arc along I’m sure we can handle almost everything.”

Hearing Ariane’s statement, Dylan’s eyes were filled with even more worry as she lightly knocked on my armor and looked up at me. She somehow developed a high opinion of my abilities.

It didn’t feel bad, so I stuck out my chest and started speaking.

“Dylan-dono, Ariane-dono’s safety is my top priority.”

When I said that, Ariane’s half-opened eyes seemed liked they were trying to stare into the depths of my helmet.

“If you’re saying such things, does that mean that you won’t get lost next time?”

Now that she mentioned it, how did one get to the empire in the first place? While I pondered, Ariane gave me the cold shoulder.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 15

V3 Chapter 15

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

Meeting in Rinburuto

In the center of the Great Canada forest. Next to the huge lake that was christened Great Slave stood the forest capital of elven society, the city Maple.

The metropolis that was home to over one-hundred thousand people was entirely constructed of fused tree buildings, surrounded by two city walls.

At the center of this metropolis was a structure taller than all others, a tower built within a large tree.

This place, referred to as the Institute, was where the power of the villages that dotted the Great Canada forest was consolidated, and where the ten great elders and the current chieftain gathered.

On the Institute's top floor, on the balcony of one of the rooms where the Great Slave Lake could be looked down upon, two men were sitting at a table across from each other.

One of the men was Dylan, who was calmly lifting a cup of tea to his lips as his slightly long, green tinged blonde hair blew in the wind.

Across from Dylan sat a male dark elf with short-trimmed white hair. He had a large scar on his face and his body was robust and rugged. His name was Fangas Furan Maple and he stroked his beard as he stared at his friend Dylan.

Not only was he one of the ten great elders, he was also the father of Dylan's wife Glenys.

"Please forgive me. I know that the transfer from Raratoia requires quite an amount of magic stones, but I still called for you."

Fangas' low and thick voice, combined with his face and large body, made him difficult to approach, even among dark elves.

However, after knowing him for many years, Dylan was able to put on his usual smile as he shook his head, lowered his cup of tea, and answered his father-in-law.

"It's no burden at all, I received eight Wyvern magic stones from my house guest, so I had no trouble transferring here."

"That adventurer my granddaughter hired…… do you trust him?"

Fangas' tone carried quite a bit of animosity when he slightly raised his eyebrow and stared his son-in-law down. However, Dylan simply shrugged his shoulders and looked back at Fangas.

"Yes. He's a bit odd, but I'd say I trust him. He seems to help and look after Ariane a lot."

"……I see, if that's your judgment then I won't say anything about it."

After he said that, Fangas crossed his arms and snorted.

Ariane was his precious granddaughter after all. Of course he'd be a little anxious at the idea of an unknown human hanging around her.

However, a great elder such as Fangas wouldn't call the elder of Raratoia to Maple just for that. With a wry smile, Dylan asked his father-in-law why he had been called here.

"Father-in-law, what is it that you really wanted to discuss?'

"Ah, I was getting to that. A messenger from Rhoden recently brought up the incident in Diento at our Rinburuto embassy. Tomorrow we'll leave the Institute and head to Rinburuto in order to attend the meeting about it."

Dylan wasn't all that surprised at what he had just been told since he had already guessed as much on his way over, so he simply nodded.

"That was quicker than I thought it'd be."

Fangas sighed as he looked at his son-in-law with dull eyes.

"The person that visited wasn't a simple messenger…… It was none other than Rhoden Kingdom's second princess Juliana."

Dylan was shocked for a moment when he heard that name, but he soon calmed down and smiled as he reached into his breast pocket and handed Fangas a sealed letter.

"This is truly a coincidence. I had wanted to get into contact with princess Juliana, so I suppose this saves me the trouble."

After Fangas took the letter and examined it, he looked back at Dylan and asked him what it was about.

Dylan proceeded to summarize everything Ariane had told him yesterday.

"I see. In that case we would still have a way to salvage the meeting if the talks were to take a turn for the worse……"

Fangas had a large grin on his face while he stroked his beard.

The next day, Dylan and Fangas went to the heavily guarded transfer hub in Maple and transferred to the small shrine in Sasukatun, the closest village to Rinburuto Archdukedom.

Sasukatun was separated from the Rinburuto Archdukedom by the Sagune river, which was flowing into the gulf of Arudoria.

Though it would take a while to reach Sasukatun from Maple via normal means, the trip could be completed instantly by using large quantities of magic stones as an energy source.

Adjacent to the sprawling capital of Rinburuto was a huge harbor that sat on the opposite shore of the Great Canada Forest.

Currently, the Rinburuto Archdukedom was the only official trading partner of the elves, so other human nations had to come here if they wanted to obtain the superior magic tools of the elves.

As a result, the Rinburuto Archdukedom became a relatively wealthy country and the leader in technological advancement.

Dylan and Fangas sailed from Sasukatun into the gulf of Arudoria before docking at Rinburuto's harbor.

They tied the boat down in a section of the harbor reserved for elves. A carriage and a group of soldiers were already waiting for them at the port, so they boarded the carriage and waited for it to set off.

Normally, escorts would surround the carriage on horseback, but elves weren't really competent horse riders since they normally traverse the forest on foot.

However, Fangas had objected to bodyguards, having confidence in his toned body and skills he amassed as a former soldier. The war mace hanging on his waist wasn't a decoration, but his dwarven-crafted, personal weapon. If he were to get serious, he would be able to crush the skull of a Ground Dragon since most of the elders were excellent combatants, therefore any guards would've been just for show.

After the soldiers of Rinburuto completed their formation surrounding the carriage, it started to move.

The carriage that picked them up headed straight for the castle located in the center of the archdukedom's capital.

Crossing the stone bridge across the moat that surrounded the castle walls, the carriage drove through the gate and entered the castle grounds, arriving at the white walls of the towering palace in which the Archduke ruling Riburuto lived. It's untold number of spires and elegantly carved walls gave the palace a dignified atmosphere.

Thought its appearance differed from the Institute's in Maple, this building also drew the attention of those who saw it. Since it was Dylan's first time setting foot into Rinburuto, he was rather interested in the scenery that passed by the carriage window.

When the carriage stopped at the foot of the palace's main stairway entrance, several servants promptly stepped up to receive Dylan and Fangas. The two of them were then lead to a palace room where a woman was waiting for them,

"It's been a long time, Fangas-sama."

The woman with beautifully combed blonde hair turned her gentle brown eyes towards Fangas and smiled as she slightly lifted her pale blue dress in a curtsey.

Fangas smiled at her welcome and returned a slightly exaggerated bow in return.

"It's an honor to meet with grand duchess Serena directly."

The woman Fangas returned a greeting to was none other than Serena Melia De Olav Tishiento, the archduchess of Rinburuto

"Even though this is an impromptu meeting, I thank you for coming."

"We're here because we're a little interested in meeting the messenger from Rhoden Kingdom."

While Serena smiled thinly at his statement, Fangas simply smiled back until she began

speaking again.

“Princess Juliana is my littler sister, all I ask is that you don’t be too hard on her.”

“Oh, we’re really just looking forward to meeting her.”

Serena then led the two of them to a back room. Although the room they entered wasn’t that large, there was a large round table in the center of the room and the sunlight that filtered in from the window brightened the tasteful decor.

Sitting in the room were a young lady and her maid, along with three young knights who were standing behind them.

The young lady rose from her seat and offered a greeting when she saw Dylan and Fangas enter.

Her beautiful brown eyes and lovely blonde hair were similar to Serena’s, though hers was longer. There was also visible tension on her face. She lacked Serena’s mature atmosphere and looked more like a girl, but no one could deny the strong will that dwelled in her eyes.

“This is our first meeting. I am Rhoden Kingdom’s second princess Juliana Marill Melissa Rhoden Olav.”

As she was speaking, she lifted her dress and offered them a humble curtsy.

“I am Fangas Furan Maple, a great elder and ambassador of Great Canada Forest. I’m a little old-fashioned, so I appreciate it when people show a little common courtesy.”

Fangas had a menacing smile on his face when he said that. The young knights that stood beside Juliana became a little stiff when they saw that, but Fangas paid them no mind and turned to Dylan.

“This here is──”

“I am the elder of Raratoia, a village of the Great Canada Forest. My name is Dylan Targ Raratoia. It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance.”

Seeing Dylan’s more relaxed greeting, compared to Fangas’s, the tension left the knights’ faces and they breathed a relieved sigh. They weren’t the only ones, since Juliana and the maid beside her both felt the tense atmosphere in the room relax a little.

Dylan quietly smiled after looking around before he started speaking as the go-between.

“Please be at ease, despite his appearance my father-in-law means no harm.”

Fangas and Juliana took at seat after Dylan urged them to sit at the table. Dylan sat down beside Fangas while the grand duchess Serena sat in between both parties.

After exchanging greetings once again, princess Juliana began to tell her tale.

“The reason I approached the elves for this meeting is due to an event that recently occurred in Rhoden Kingdom’s territory of Diento.”

Fangas crossed his arms and remained silent as he listened to princess Juliana. Dylan remained focused on what the princess was saying but he didn’t react to anything in particular.

“I’m ashamed to admit it, but Diento’s feudal lord was suspected of breaking the treaty and kidnapping elves. Shortly after the royal family began to investigate, the lord was assassinated.”

Juliana stopped talking at that point and turned to the silent Fangas. However, Fangas didn’t move an inch and simply raised an eyebrow at Juliana.

“I intend to investigate the details of this case and would personally like to apologize for what happened. However, this matter involves the dignity of the royal family. I believe it to be suitable for the royal family to seek consultation on how to handle this matter, no?”

Juliana seems to have concluded that the elves were involved with marquis Diento’s assassination, and was offering a pardon for it.

This seemed to catch Fangas’s attention as he sported a toothy grin when he heard it.

“Hum, what do you want from us then?”

The kingdom was the one the broke the treaty in the first place and the elves merely retaliated in kind, so this wasn’t a situation where either side could make demands since both sides had already suffered losses.

“Well, I would like to make a simple request…… for the elves of the Great Canada Forest to become my supporters for the throne of Rhoden.”

Juliana lowered her head as she spoke. Fangas nodded at her proposal and urged her to continue.

So Juliana explained the turmoil over the succession rights that was currently plaguing the royal family.

“Juliana-dono what would we stand to gain from supporting you?”

“My older brother Sect is receiving support from the Western Leburan Empire. It was the old Leburan Empire that was responsible for the tragedy of the dwarfs in the past. While we are separated by the wind dragon mountain range, if my brother takes the throne the empire’s influence will naturally increase. This is unconfirmed information, but there is a rumor that the empire is developing new magic tool at the elves’ expense.”

The 『Dwarven Tragedy』 she spoke of was when the dwarves of the Northern continent were hunted for their metallurgic knowledge. It was the old/previous/former Leburan Empire that led the hunts, and as a result of their severe and cruel acts human history now stated that the dwarves, along with their knowledge, have disappeared from the continent.

However, unbeknownst to the humans was that during those days the dwarves had formed an alliance with the elves and were currently living secluded in the forest capital Maple.

“Juliana-dono do you intend to stand against the empire if you obtain the throne?”

Dylan, who had been mostly quiet till now, asked the question, while Fangas looked the princess in the eyes to verify her true intentions.

Juliana’s response was a silent nod.

“We elves are rather ignorant of human politics, so would our support really help you all that much?”

Fangas’s large arms remained crossed as he sighed.

“Frankly speaking, I do believe so. I hope to arrange trade negotiations between my followers and the elves.”

“However that’s……”

In response to Juliana’s statement Dylan turned to Serena, who had been calmly sitting off to the side.

“The Grand Duke is already aware of this and has approved the sale of 『Abundant Harvest Stones』. Rinburuto is currently the only country dealing in 『Abundant Harvest Stones』 and if I’m able to obtain the trading right, my influence within the royal family would increase, thus drawing a multitude of nobles to my side.”

“I see. Juliana-dono, you’re trying to promote a positive relationship with the elves.’

Fangas actually moved his large body and began to stroke his white beard. However, a large smile soon appeared on his face.

“I recently learned that one of my brethren married your country’s feudal lord of Lanbaltic. If mutual understanding between elves and your countrymen continues, then that partnership may be possible. I can’t make any promises about trade negotiations yet, but I will have a response for you after the next meeting of the great elders .”

At that response, Juliana’s turned towards the knights and the maid that stood beside her, but they were simply nodding their heads with a surprised look on their faces.

Seemingly pleased with their reaction, Fangas stood up and offered his hand. Juliana quickly rushed to grasp his hand and sighed as a relieved expression appeared on her face.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 16

V3 Chapter16

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Border Town Gurado」Part 1

The Leibnitz territory of the Holy Leburan Empire.

To the west was the Shiana mountain range which ran from north to south. West of the mountain range it was hemmed in by the borders of the Great Leburan Empire and in the east were the steep volcanic peaks of the Fire Dragon Mountains.

The fertile soil and warmer climate between the eastern and western mountains resulted in the territory becoming rather wealthy due to the ease in which crops could be grown.

In a certain room in the castle of Leibnitz territory's feudal lord, the sound of a man and woman merrily drinking and exchanging pillow talk could be heard.

The interior was luxuriously decorated and sitting untidily on one of the expensive embroidered sofas was a tall man.

His black hair was twisted into dreadlocks, his face was unshaven and a peculiar tattoo could be seen on his exposed muscular chest.

The man with the exposed chest had a vulgar smile on his face as his hands traced over the curves of a female servant. The woman in question blushed fiercely when the man took a swig from the bottle in his hand and forced her to drink it with a kiss while starting to rub her large breasts.

Along with the sweet aroma of expensive liquor, a breathless moan escaped the woman's mouth.

"Funoba-sama〜, me too～♪"

Another woman, who had been watching until now, uttered that cry before she clung to the man called Funoba and licked her lips.

"Nuhahah, it's alright, it's alright. I'll let you enjoy a taste of this high-class liquor."

Just as Funoba was about to take another swig, the room's door was forced open and a single man stepped in.

"Funoba-sama, do you plan to drown in the pleasures of women and liquor all day!? Have you forgotten the task his majesty gave you!?"

He had a thin looking face and blue veins were visible under his copper colored hair that had been tightly woven into seven braids. Although his tight-fitting clothes weren't all that glamorous, they were finely tailored.

Funoba felt as if something troublesome had appeared when he looked up at the man.

"Old man Drusus, I just returned from a monster capturing expedition, okay? I'm sure his

majesty Domitianus will understand if I take a little down time.”

While chuckling a little, Funoba became playing around with the women, causing them to moan in unison.

“……Youuu!!!”

In a fit of blind rage, the middle-aged man called Drusus took a step forward to grab Funoba, but Drusus stopped in his tracks when Funoba suddenly whistled and large figures entered his sight.

Two huge wolves, about two meters tall, crept out of the sofa’s shadow. Their fur was entirely white and the tips of their tail gave off a phosphorescent blue light. Around the wolves’ forepaws was a dark gray ring, engraved with a complex pattern, that didn’t seem to be connected to any chain.

When the wolves standing front of Drusus snarled, he started to tremble and scream.

“Ahh!”

Drusus quickly backed away from the ferocious beasts and glared at Funoba, who was still fooling around with the women.

“Don’t make such a scary face, old man. These Haunting Wolves are rather clever monsters. If it weren’t for my ability to use the 『Ring of Submission』, they wouldn’t be so obedient, you know? Since I exerted myself for his majesty’s sake, I need to replenish my energy, hehe.”

After having mocked Dorassos, Funoba took another gulp from the bottle of alcohol in his hand and gave the women another mouth-to-mouth drink.

After gnashing his teeth at Funoba’s behavior, Drusus turned heel, storming out of the room and slamming the door shut.

He paced through his own castle with long strides and slumped shoulders. The surrounding servants trembled in fear when they saw their master’s appearance.

“Fuck!! This uncultured barbarian!! Just because you carry his majesty’s favor you think you can selfishly invade my castle!? You’ll regret this, you savage!!”

On that day, the repeated resentful shouts of viscount Drusus De Barishimon could be heard throughout the castle, creating a gloomy atmosphere for all the servants.

Arc POV

Under a cloudy sky early in the morning, a city spread out before my eyes. The three-meter wide moat was filled with water from the Spirit river that ran close to the city. Around the moat was a wheat field that was currently blowing in the wind.

This it the first town I visited when I came to this world, Rubierute. Though it hasn’t been that long since I last stayed here, I was still feeling a bit nostalgic.

Ponta was in her usual spot atop my head and Ariane was looking down at the city beside me.

The reason we came to this town was because there was no other way for us to get to the

empire. The city closest to the empire that I could travel to with 【Transfer Gate】 was Rubierute.

However, we still needed to ask someone in the city for directions to the empire from Rubierute. Though we'd received a crude map of the Northern continent in Raratoia, there were no locations of human towns marked on it, and no one in the elf village was knowledgeable about highways.

Apparently, we'd reach the Holy Leburan Empire if we headed straight north and crossed over the volcanic area called the Fire Dragon Mountain. Given what happened with Buranbeina, it was necessary for us to get accurate directions.

When we reached the gate, I showed the guards the copper pass I received after saving the feudal lord's daughter and asked them if they knew the way to the empire, but they were only able to shake their heads.

The majority of this world's people don't seem to travel far from their birthplace, since there weren't many people that knew the distance to far-away locations. Most people we asked only knew the way to nearest town from their home village.

Just as I was about to give up and go ask some peddlers traveling the highway about it, a voice suddenly called out to me.

"Arc-sama!?"

When I looked back I saw a woman I recognized.

Her curly red hair was cut in a short style, barely reaching the nape of her neck and her deep brown eyes were opened wide in shock. She was dressed in a maid's uniform and seemed to be in her early twenties. She was also the first person I ever talked to in this world.

"Ah, Rita-dono. I never imagined meeting you in such a place."

Ariane was wearing her gray cloak beside me and from underneath her hood she was sending me a questioning gaze, so I whispered an abridged version of how I helped Rita with the bandit situation to her.

"Yes, Arc-sama. Have your travels been going well since you left?"

"Hmm, I've been here and there, I even managed to visit the capital……"

"Huh, you've been to the capital? I still haven't been there."

Seeing how happy Rita looked when she talked, I began to stroke my chin.

A maid in direct service to Lauren, the daughter of this territory's feudal lord, was right in front of me. She was surely brighter than commoners, with that in mind I looked straight at Rita.

"I actually need to go to the Eastern Leburan Empire for a business trip, so I wondered if you could help me with the directions."

Rita raised her eyebrow at my statement and turned towards Ariane with a weird expression on her face.

Rita seemed troubled by something as she opened her mouth and started speaking.

“I do know the way there, but the roads around the border have been overrun by monsters recently, and I’ve heard commercial travel to the area has decreased. ……It would be quite dangerous to travel those roads with a female companion.”

Ariane and I shared a look after she said that.

“I don’t think that will be a problem. Will your legs be okay, Arc?”

Ariane’s large chest bounced a little as she chuckled and showed off the 『Sword of the Lion King』 that had been covered by her cloak.

If we did run into a large group of monsters, I could use 【Dimensional Step】 to escape, or it would be easily within Ariane and my power to annihilate the threat if retreat was impossible.

“Well, it shouldn’t be much of a problem.”

When I nodded and agreed with Ariane, Rita reluctantly told us the exact directions to the empire.

After another minute or two of chatting, we said our goodbyes to Rita and then left Rubierute along the western highway.

The road rose at a gentle incline and soon we could see the gorgeous scenery from atop a hill. While the Spirit river flew in the southwestern direction on my left, I was more focused on the highway in front of me.

At the bottom of the hill, the highway split into two paths, with one path traveling along the river and the other heading northwest. The border town Gurado was along the northwestern path.

Although Rita didn’t know the way to the empire, she did know the way to the nearest border town Gurado, and she mentioned that the Holy Leburan Empire’s territory was just beyond it.

She said that it’d be a half-day journey from Rubierute to Gurado by carriage, but it shouldn’t take more than an hour using 【Dimensional Step】.

Since monster appeared all along the northwestern path, our main objective was to remain undetected. Thought it was a common scene for people to hang around monster spawns in a game, hanging around a monster’s habitat was quite dangerous.

While it would seem like some type of safari for someone like me, who could use short range teleportation, the ones who were only able to walk would only be a stone’s throw away from a vicious monster attack.

As we quickly made our way down the highway with transfers, we didn’t pass a single person or carriage. Since there were usually other people traversing the highways, I had to limit my use of transfer magic, but with no one around I could use it without holding back.

It wasn’t long before Gurado came into view. Since it was called a border town, I thought it would be large, but even from this distance I could tell it was smaller than Rubierute. If anything else, it was more like a large village in size.

Since Gurado was surrounded on two sides by a forest, and monster attacks must have been frequent, the residents had built a large stone wall that was suitable for a city.

The town was in a distorted oval shape and there was a field outside the wall, just like the other places I've been. However, I couldn't see the shadows of those who should be tending the field despite it being early in the morning.

Though I suppose that they could have been hidden by the crops' shadow. As we walked the rest of the way to the town, I suddenly heard a child's scream.

"Whaaaaa!!"

Ariane and I shared a look while Ponta's ear stood up as she started to look around.

All of a sudden, two boys burst out of the field a short distance away. Chasing after them was a monster I hadn't seen I visited since Rata village some time ago.

Skeleton Knight, in Another World - Volume 3 - Chapter 17

V3 Chapter 17

Translator: Silver Editor: Namorax

「Border Town Gurado」Part 2

The monster was covered in black and gray fur and four tusks were sticking out of both sides of its mouth. It was a Fanged Boar, similar to the one I had killed before. However, it wasn't two meters long as the one before, this one was maybe one and a half meters at best.

One of the fleeing boys, who was carrying a simple wooden shield with a thin iron plate riveted to it, turned around to confront the Fanged Boar with his short sword. When I focused on the boar, I noticed that there was a bleeding cut on its body and it was scratching the ground as it stared down the kid with the sword.

The boys must have angered the boar when they tried to slay it and now the boys would meet their end by impalement.

My black cloak fluttered as I ran towards the kids and drew my sword. Ariane had already sent out a flying mound of rocks that hit the ground in-between the Fanged Boar and the children, throwing up a cloud of dust.

When the Fanged Boar tried to leap back and groaned, I aimed for its neck. The monster tried to reorient itself when it recognized a new enemy, but it's movements were too slow.

By the time the Fanged Boar started to turn, my sword was already in mid-swing. With a booming shout, I brought the 『Holy Thunder Sword』 down on the crown of the monster's head. The sword easily cut the Fanged Boar's head in half and the remaining momentum caused the blade to hit the ground and create a large fissure.

The two boys stared at me with their mouths wide open, wearing dumbfounded expressions.

"I am a priest, are either of you injured?"

After I swung my sword to remove the blood and sheathed it, the boy with the sword quickly stepped forward to answer me.

"W-We're alright! I was just about to slay the beast myself!!"

The boy's small brown eyes, which complimented his short brown hair, glared at me in annoyance. When he thrust his sword in my direction, the boy's trembling arms threw off his aim.

Suddenly the pale boy with similar gear that had remained silent till now, tackled the other boy that had been in the middle of his sloppy thrust and knocked him to the ground.

"Onii-chan what are you doing?! What do you think you're saying to our savior?!"

Apparently the two of them were siblings.

The younger one's hair was lighter and slightly longer than his brothers, and he seems to have a more reserved personality compared to his overactive older brother. He had the same brown eyes as his brother, but he had more common sense.

After hitting his brother on the head as he stood up, the younger one lowered his head to me.

"Sorry, I apologize for my brother's actions! My name is Levitto and this is my brother──"

"I am Raiatto Dalsen De Gurado! I am the rising star of the next generation's feudal lords!"

While he did cut off his brother Levitto, Raiatto's arrogant introduction with his arms crossed over his chest and puffed out cheeks was rather heartwarming. Well, it was a rather interesting thing to do in front of a mysterious knight clad in a black cloak and women clad in a gray cloak at least.

"Quite the interesting child."

Ariane started to chuckle at the boys' antics as she slowly made her way over.

Still, these boys were apparently the sons of the feudal lord. That begged the question as to why they were outside the town, trying to fight monsters with weapons. Confused, I decided to ask the boys about it.

"By the way, what are you boys doing in a place like this?"

It wasn't Levitto that answered like I expected, but the older brother Raiatto that spoke up.

"I'm not a boy! Since there have been recent monster attacks in the Gurado territory, I've taken it upon myself to pacify the land!"

He was definitely at the stage between child and teenager.

"Isn't that a reckless thing to do? Nothing would be accomplished if you died."

"I-I can do it! I am not being reckless! I can do it!!"

When I gave some frank advice, Raiatto's face turned a deep red and he stomped on the ground like a child. Since I couldn't deal with him forever I turned towards the younger brother who'd been standing off to the side.

"I have a small question Levitto-dono, do you know the closest town in the the empire from here?"

"The closest town in the empire? I don't know, but I bet father does."

As he spoke, Levitto apologetically shook his head in response to my question. There was no need to ask the feudal lord, but it seemed that we wouldn't be changing our destination from Gurado. However, Raiatto soon leaped up and started to shout in protest.

"Hey! Hey! Don't ignore me! Ignore me and I──"

"Kyun!"

All of a sudden a gust of wind blew up and smacked Raiatto in the face as Ponta cried out

from the top of my head.

“What!?”

After being hit by the gust Raiatto began to wildly swing his sword around until he fell on his butt.

“What just happened!? That green fur ba— ah!!”

“Kyun! Kyun!”

Ponta jumped from my head to the ground when Raiatto started to glare daggers at her and puffed out her fur while baring her fangs at him.

“How about we all just head to town and decide what to do from there. Let’s get there quickly.”

“T-Thank you very much.”

After I broke up the fight, Levitt and Ratio led the way to town while Ariane was following them with Ponat in her arms. After quickly picking something up I brought up the rear.

There was a deep trench dug around Gurado’s walls and there was a drop bridge at the entrance. There were several guards at the front gate and all of them rushed forward when they noticed our group approaching.

“Levitto! Raiatto! Where did the two of you run off!? Dalson-sama has been worried sick about you!!”

One of the guards rushed forward to check on the two brothers, who looked a little embarrassed when they heard that this Dalson person was worried about them.

Even the hyperactive Ratio was quiet when he heard this. It was Levitto who told them how Ariane and I came across the two of them and safely brought them back to town.

When the guards took us to the center of the town, we encountered a gathering of many people, who were all wearing heavy equipment. There were twenty knights adorned with excellent armor, while the remaining ten men were dressed in leather armor, all holding different weapons.

When one of the guards that had been leading us ran up to the group he saluted to the person standing in the center.

“Dalson-sama, your sons have been found!”

The man called Dalson was wearing armor like the people around him and his physique was slightly larger than the rest. He appeared to be in his early thirties, had a stubby beard, short hair and the same brown eyes as the boys.

Although he carried the atmosphere of bandit leader or veteran adventurer, I couldn’t deny that he was the boys’ father and thus Gurado’s feudal lord.

A vein was visibly throbbing on Dalson’s forehead and he wore a strained smile on his face as he approached us with long strides before striking both Raiatto and Levitt on the top of their heads.

“Ouch〜〜!!”

Raiatto started rolling on the ground, holding his head, while Levitto crouched on the ground in pain.

“Shut up!! Fools, you’ve made me worry for nothing with this crap!!”

Dalson rubbed his fist as he shouted at the two, before he turned to me.

“A stranger? At such an unusual time?”

“My name is Arc, a traveling adventurer. This is my current traveling companion, Ariana.”

“Kyun!”

There was doubt on Dalson’s face when I introduced Ariane and myself and only Ponta’s cry when she jumped on my head broke the silence. Dalson gave us a once over before he moved his eyes back to my face and asked me another question.

“What’s that on your shoulder?”

“Oh, on our way here we ran into your sons while they were attacked by this monster. In order to prevent its death from being unnecessary, we brought it here for processing.”

As I said that, I threw the Fanged Boar I had been carrying around with one hand at the feudal lord’s feet, making everyone around us shout in surprise.

When Ratio saw that, he quickly hid behind the nearest knight’s back.

While more veins appeared on Dalson’s temple, he simply snorted and looked back at me.

“You said you were an adventurer, right? If you have the power to slay that damned beast in a single blow, then you are a considerable fighting force. Would you consider being employed by me for a while? What’s your price?”

Dalson kicked the head of the Fanged Boar corpse as he stared at me.

“While I am grateful for the offer, I’m currently employed by another party……”

I glanced in Ariane’s direction as I spoke.

Dalson looked disappointed at my answer as he sighed and scratched the back of his head.

“I see…… To come to Gurado at such a time, do you have an errand here?”

“No, we’re trying to reach the nearest city in the empire. Do you happen to know the way, Dalson-dono?”

When I asked about reaching a city in the empire, Dalson widely smiled and turned towards Ariana.

“Regrettably, a group of Ogres has holed near the highway up ahead, so it’s currently quite dangerous to travel to the empire.”

I often encountered Ogres in the game, they were a demonic looking monster. Their most notable traits were their high physical strength and offensive power. Basically, a troublesome enemy at the beginning but a suitable grinding monster for the mid-game.

Ariane and I should easily be able to deal with them ourselves or we could just use

【Dimensional Step】to avoid the trouble.

However, judging from Dalson's aura, he wouldn't allow two people to attempt a dangerous trek to the empire by themselves.

"I have a suggestion for you, we're preparing to subjugate the Ogres right now, so how about you lend him to us? Adventurers rarely visit the border, and one with the strength to kill a Fanged Boar with a single blow is one I'd like to work with."

His proposal for leasing my contract was directed at Ariane since she had been presented as my employer.

Ariane's golden eyes looked towards me from beneath her hood so I gave her a simple nod.

It was my way of telling her that I didn't think exterminating the Ogres would take too much time to accomplish.

"I don't particularly mind."

When Ariane accepted his proposal Dalson's smile widened even more.

"Is that so. Well, thank you for that. Of course, you two will be handsomely rewarded for your contribution. You said your name was Arc, you are in agreement with this, right?"

"I don't really have any objections. How big is this group of Ogres?"

"According to our scouts, there are about ten of them."

If there were that few, then this could probably be settled before noon.

"Though this promising fellow has joined us, but don't think you can be careless. You lot, don't be too reckless!"

"OHH!!"

A battle cry rang out a Dalson's exclamation. The knights shared promises of returning safely with their friends and families as they gathered to make their final equipment checks.

I looked to Ariane as the spectacle unfolded, but she simply shrugged and shook her head.

This situation seemed more serious than I initially thought it to be.

Given Dalson's not too serious attitude as a feudal lord, I'd thought that is would be something similar to a hunting trip in the mountains, but maybe I was wrong.

There would be no chance of victory if the commander had a hopeless expression. Nevertheless, he was a rather brave man to lead the subjection himself.

Though this town wasn't very large, judging by the small number of knights present, they were also short-handed.

"I assume we'll depart after everything is put in order."

Dalson's eyes bulged when Ariana spoke up.

"Well, I thought that you could wait here in town for our retur──"

“Wouldn’t my magic and skills with the sword also count as a great war potential?”

She created a fireball in her hand as she spoke, before extinguishing it the next instant.

“Oh! Lady luck is truly smiling down on us! Every last one of you better come back alive!!”

“Oooou!!”

Following Dalson’s energetic jab came the ecstatic shouts of the men around us.

Translator : Silver

Epub Maker : novelepubs